

LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Grammar Fluency

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Category	Fluency in Key Grammar	Title	Grammar Book 12 – Keep Trying!: Gerunds
Ages	6–9	Theme	Gerunds — -ing as a Noun + Verbs + Gerunds + Preposition + Gerund

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

In this book, children follow a young boy's New Year's resolutions — eating healthy, practising basketball, reading, and saving money — to master one of English's most versatile grammar tools: the gerund. Children already know -ing as a present continuous action from Book 5. Now they discover that the same -ing form can be a noun — the name of an activity, a hobby, or a habit.

Whether he is 'tired of saving' or 'enjoys practising', every page gives children a new, meaningful context for using gerunds naturally. The theme of persistence and New Year's goals makes this book not just a grammar lesson but a genuinely motivating story about trying, failing, and keeping going.

-ING AS ACTION VS -ING AS GERUND

-ing as an Action (Present Continuous)	-ing as a Gerund (Activity Name / Noun)
<i>I am reading a story.</i>	<i>Reading is my favourite hobby.</i>
<i>The cat is sleeping.</i>	<i>Sleeping is important for health.</i>
<i>We are playing tag.</i>	<i>Playing is how we learn.</i>
<i>He is swimming fast.</i>	<i>Swimming is a fun sport.</i>

COMMON VERBS FOLLOWED BY GERUNDS

Likes & Dislikes	Start / Stop / Continue	Suggestions & Thoughts
enjoy, like, love, don't mind, hate, dislike	finish, stop, keep, give up, go (shopping)	suggest, practise, imagine, consider
<i>"I enjoy reading." / "She hates washing dishes."</i>	<i>"Have you finished eating?" / "Keep trying!"</i>	<i>"I suggest taking a break." / "Imagine flying!"</i>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- Distinguish between -ing as a present continuous action and -ing as a gerund (noun)
- Use gerunds as subjects — 'Reading is my favourite hobby'
- Use gerunds after common verbs — enjoy, love, hate, finish, stop, keep, suggest, imagine
- Use gerunds after prepositions — 'good at dribbling', 'interested in reading'
- Talk about New Year's resolutions and personal goals using gerund structures

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Review -ing as action, introduce -ing as gerund

Connect to Book 5 — children already know 'falling' in 'London Bridge is Falling Down' as a present continuous action. Now introduce the new role: -ing as the name of an activity. Use the comparison table above — 'I am reading' (doing it right now) vs 'Reading is my favourite hobby' (the name of the activity). Ask your child: 'Can you feel the difference?' The key is that gerunds are things, not actions happening at this moment.

2. Spot the prepositional pairs

Help your child hunt through the book for gerunds that follow prepositions. Useful patterns to look for: 'good at + gerund', 'interested in + gerund', 'tired of + gerund', 'excited about + gerund'. Make a list of every prepositional pair found. These combinations are a major milestone for sounding natural in English — and once children notice the pattern, they start hearing it everywhere.

3. Practise verbs followed by gerunds

Go through the three categories of verbs that take gerunds — likes and dislikes, start/stop/continue, and suggestions and thoughts. For each verb, ask your child to make their own example sentence about something real in their life: 'I enjoy playing football' or 'I have finished eating dinner' or 'I suggest taking a nap!' The more personal the sentence, the more memorable it becomes.

4. Share New Year's resolutions

Use the book's theme to talk about your child's own goals. Ask: 'What are you going to keep doing this year?' and 'What do you want to stop doing?' Encourage full gerund sentences: 'I am going to keep practising piano' or 'I want to stop wasting time.' This conversation connects the grammar to genuine personal motivation — the most powerful memory anchor of all.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Make a New Year's Resolution poster together. Ask your child to write five resolutions using gerund structures from the three verb categories — for example: 'I enjoy learning new words. I am going to keep reading every day. I want to stop forgetting my homework. I suggest trying new foods. I imagine becoming a great athlete!' Display the poster somewhere visible as a daily reminder — and as ongoing grammar practice every time they read it!

Try the fun online learning activities for this book on our website!

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TEACHER'S NOTES AND TIPS

Gerunds are one of the most frequently used structures in natural English conversation — and one of the most commonly misunderstood. The most important conceptual point is the distinction between -ing as a verb form (present continuous) and -ing as a noun (gerund). Children who have worked through Book 5 already have a strong foundation; this book simply gives -ing a new role to play. The prepositional pair patterns (good at, interested in, tired of) are particularly valuable because they are idiomatic and cannot easily be guessed from first principles — they require exposure and memorisation. The New Year's resolution theme provides an unusually rich emotional context that makes the grammar genuinely personal and motivating.