

French Grammar Express – The Gerund

This lesson is recommended for a better understanding of 'the gerund'.



The **GERUND** looks the same as a present participle (ends in **-ing**), but it acts as a **noun**.

Nouns

Exercise
water
relaxation

Gerunds:

Exercising
drinking water
relaxing

is good for your health.

Reminder

The present participle

→ Take the 'nous' form of the present tense.

-ER Verbs	-IR Verbs	-RE verbs	Irregular verbs
Danser - to dance	Finir - to finish	Vendre - to sell	
dansant <i>dancing</i>	finissant <i>finishing</i>	vendant <i>selling</i>	faisant <i>doing</i> prenant <i>taking</i> voyant <i>seeing</i>

→ Knock off the 'nous' and its endings.

→ Add the ending **-ant** [ã]

Exceptions:

être (to be) → étant
avoir (to have) → ayant
savoir (to know) → sachant

Il lit **en écoutant** de la musique.

He reads while listening to music.

Je me relaxe **en écoutant** de la musique.

I relax by listening to music.

Cette musique est **relaxante**.

This music is relaxing - Adjective

The English gerund is translated in French by an **INFINITIVE** verb

Acts as a **noun**: 'the fact of listening to music'

subject

Écouter de la musique est **relaxant**.
Listening to music is relaxing.

Adjective → Present Participle

To summarise: the way the English **-ing** is translated in French varies:

-ant [ã] → Present participle

en faisant (by/while doing)

amusant (Adjective)

A conjugated verb

Present tense: Je regarde la télé (*I am watching TV*)

Imperfect tense: Je regardais la télé (*I was watching TV*)

Future tense: Je regarderai la télé (*I will be watching TV*)

Infinitive verb

J'aime **nager**. (*I like swimming.*)

Apprendre le français est facile. (*Learning French is easy.*)