

# 1 Here's the Idea

- ▶ **A gerund is a verb form that ends in *-ing* and functions as a noun.** Like any noun, a gerund can be used as a subject, an object of a preposition, a direct object, an indirect object, or a predicate nominative.

SUBJECT

**Skating** is a winter sport.

OBJECT OF PREPOSITION

Thank you for **listening**.

- ▶ **A gerund phrase consists of a gerund plus its modifiers and complements.** Because a gerund is formed from a verb, it may have an object. If it does, the object and any modifiers of the object are part of the gerund phrase.

GERUND PHRASE

Tim Berners-Lee is known for **inventing the World Wide Web.**

GERUND

OBJECT

Both gerunds and present participles end in *-ing*, but they function as different parts of speech. Remember, present participles function as adjectives, while gerunds function as nouns.

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

What does a **blinking** cursor mean?

GERUND

**Blinking** can be a sign of eye strain.

Which four *-ing* words in the cartoon are gerunds? Which three are not?