

Gerunds (Verbal Adverbs)

Two suffixes, same-subject rule, fixed expressions, register

THE TWO TYPES

type	aspect	suffix	meaning
imperfective	ipf	-я / -а	simultaneous: 'while doing X'
perfective	pf	-в (-вши)	prior: 'having done X'

PERFECTIVE FORMATION

1. From the past stem (before -л) + -в.
2. прочитáл 'прочитáв; сказáл 'сказáв; написáл 'написáв.
3. -ти / -чь verbs: future stem + -я. войтí 'войдѣ; принестí 'принесѣ.
4. Reflexive perfective: -вши + -сь. улыбнѹлся 'улыбнѹвшись.

FROZEN GERUND EXPRESSIONS

expression	meaning
несмотрѣ на + acc	despite, in spite of
благодарѣ + dat	thanks to
сѹдя по + dat	judging by
чѣстно говорѣ	frankly speaking
корѳче говорѣ	in short
не говорѣ ужѣ о	not to mention

IMPERFECTIVE FORMATION

1. From the онí-form: drop -т, add -я.
2. читáют 'читáя; говорѣт 'говорѣя; сидѣт 'сидѣя.
3. After husher (ж/ч/ш/щ) use -а: слышат 'слыша.
4. Reflexive: keep -сь at the end. смеѣтсѣ 'смеѣсь.
5. No gerund: писáть, пѣть, спáть, естѣ, пítъ, most monosyllabic -ать verbs. Use a relative clause instead.

THE SAME-SUBJECT RULE

1. The gerund's subject MUST equal the main verb's subject.
2. OK: Читáя газѣту, он пил кѳфе. (he reads, he drinks: same subject)
3. Wrong: Гулѣя по ѹлицѣ, началсѣ дождѣ. (someone walks, rain starts: different subjects)
4. Fix: rephrase with когдá / пѳсле тогѳ как + finite verb.

REGISTER & ALTERNATIVES

1. Gerunds are written / formal, common in novels, journalism, academic prose.
2. Spoken Russian paraphrases: ipf 'когдá + ipf verb; pf 'пѳсле тогѳ как + pf verb.
3. Gerunds are uninflected: no gender, no number, no case. Stay the same in every sentence position.
4. Russian name: дѣепричастия. (Distinct from причастия = participles.)