



A gerund is an *-ing* verb form used as a noun.

Gerund: A **gerund** is a noun made out of an *-ing* verb or an *-ing* verb made into a noun — two ways of saying the same thing. All kinds of subjects and objects may be made out of gerunds or gerund phrases. A gerund might be by itself, or it might join with other words to make a **gerund phrase**. *Running is exercise. Running daily is good exercise. I like running.* If you do not understand gerunds, you do not fully understand nouns.

Seeking	the	truth	was	Socrates's	goal.
n.	adj.	n.	v.	n.	n.
-----subj.-----			LVP	S.C.	
-----gerund phrase-----					

The entire gerund phrase is the subject. It acts like a single part of speech. This is a common pattern.



The gerund phrase a multi-word subject. We see that the sentence is an equation based on the past tense linking verb *was*, with *goal* as the subject complement. Even though *Socrates's* is a possessive noun, it acts like an adjective. Not understanding gerunds means not understanding subjects.

