

LearnIt Town Newsletter



Vocabulary

fall
autumn
September
October
November



scarecrow
apples
pear
parsnips
corn
cornstalk
pumpkin
sunflower



jacket
sweater
umbrella
wind
clouds
rain



bonfire
hayride
caramel apple
football



orange
yellow
red
brown
green



rake
leaves
tree
acorn
harvest



Halloween
jack o' lantern
bat
ghost
witch
skeleton



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squirrel



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bonfire



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leaves



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umbrella



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parsnips



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pumpkin



LearnIt Town
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pear



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cornstalk



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pinecone



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rake leaves



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scarf

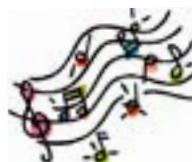


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corn

OCTOBER HOLIDAY

HALLOWEEN



[Click for Music](#)

HALLOWEEN VOCABULARY

a bat



a black cat



a skull



a cauldron



a spider's web



a coffin



costumes



a Jack-o'-lantern



sweets



a ghost



a witch



a zombie



a grave yard



a haunted house



a werewolf



NOT A GHOST OF A CHANCE - to have no chance at all - "They don't have a ghost of a chance of winning."

DIG ONE'S OWN GRAVE - to do something that causes you harm, sometimes serious harm - "She dug her own grave when she made fun of the boss."

DS THRILLED TO DEATH / UK THRILLED TO BIT - very excited - "She was thrilled to death with her present."

BORED TO DEATH / BORED STIFF - completely bored - "I pretended to listen, but I was bored to death."

STAB IN THE BACK - to do something harmful to someone who trusted you - "He had been lied to and stabbed in the back by people that he thought were his friends."

PLAY THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE - to raise objections against a position purely for the sake of argument - "I don't really believe all that - I was just playing devil's advocate."

SPILL YOUR GUTS - to tell someone all about yourself, especially your problems - "Why do people take part in these shows and spill their guts on a tv show?"

IT'S DEAD IN THE WATER - a failed plan - "That plan on the new school building is dead in the water."

MAKE ONE'S BLOOD BOIL - to make someone extremely angry - "The way they have treated those refugees makes my blood boil."

DEAD ON ONE'S FEET - extremely tired - "After they went on the tour, she was dead on her feet."

A DEVIL OF A JOB - a most difficult task - "I'm having a devil of a job getting this window open."

OVER MY DEAD BODY - If you say something will happen over your dead body, you mean that you will do everything you can to prevent it - "she moves into our home over my dead body"

FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE - for all of a person's life - "She lived in the same town from the cradle to the grave."

DEATH WARMED OVER / WARMED UP - to look or feel very ill - "He shouldn't be working when he's so ill - he looks like death warmed over!"

SKELETON IN THE CLOSET - to have an embarrassing secret about your past - "The politician has a skeleton in the closet."

IN COLD BLOOD - to do something deliberately in a ruthless manner, never give it a thought - "the government forces killed them in cold blood"

PUT / STICK THE KNIFE IN - to do something unkind or unpleasant to someone, particularly when they are weak - "My best friend dated my boyfriend and really put the knife in my back."

SCARED STIFF OR SCARED TO DEATH - to get so scared that you are not able to move - "She was scared to death of flying."

SCARE THE PANTS OFF SOMEONE - to really scare someone - "Thunderstorms scare the pants off my children and my dogs too."

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE (JUST) SEEN A GHOST! - you look frightened - "What's the matter? You look like you've seen a ghost!"

SKELETON STAFF - minimum number of employees needed to work a business - "The hotel has a skeleton staff on the holidays."

ROLLING OVER IN ONE'S GRAVE - If you say that a dead person would turn in their grave, you mean that they would be very angry or upset about something - "My dad would turn in his grave if he knew who she was dating."

OUT FOR BLOOD - determined to get revenge on someone. - "Make no mistake about it, the football team will be out for blood."

GRAMMAR LESSONS

Understanding Gerunds

DEFINITION: A **gerund** is a verbal that uses the present participle of a verb (the **ing** form) but acts as a noun. It can act as a subject, a subject complement, a direct object, an indirect object, or an object of a preposition.

Reading is my favorite activity.

(gerund as a subject)

Laura's best subject is *writing*.

(gerund as a subject complement)

Alex really enjoys *biking*.

(gerund as a direct object)

Eva gives *singing* all her attention.

(gerund as an indirect object)

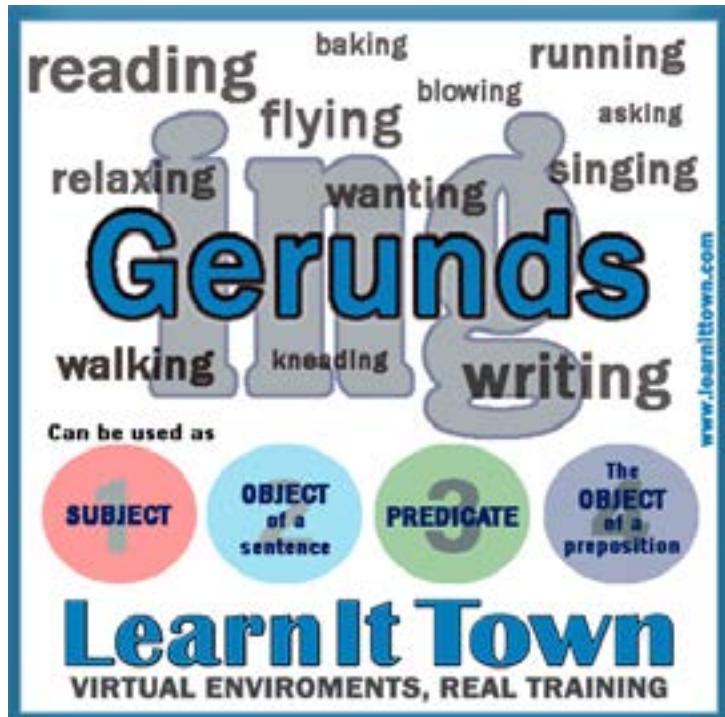
I got this bruise from *fencing*.

(gerund as the object of a preposition)

HINT: Watch out for present participles used as participles (adjectives).

Participle: Let's meet at the *bowling* alley.
(*Bowling* describes alley.)

Gerund: On the weekends, I go *bowling*.
(*Bowling* is acting as a noun.)



DEFINITION: A **gerund phrase** is the **gerund** plus its **object and modifiers**.

Reading mystery novels is her favorite activity.
(gerund phrase as a subject)

Shelwyn's best subject is creative *writing*.
(gerund phrase as a subject complement)

Eman really enjoys *biking* through the mountains.
(gerund phrase as a direct object)

I got this bruise from *fencing* with my instructor.
(gerund phrase as the object of a preposition)

Gerund

= verb + ing

Gerunds are made by changing a verb to an -ing form.

swim - swimming
study - studying
run - running
watch - watching

hope
love
decide
fall
learn
try
hate
help
choose
remember
prefer
forget
mean
plan

Infinite

= "to" + base form of verb
Infinities are made of to + the base form of the verb.

to swim
to study
to run
to watch

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HINT: If you're not sure if a word or phrase is a gerund, replace it with the word **something**. Since a gerund is a noun, replacing it with a pronoun should work.

Playing the violin is a skill I am learning.

Something is a skill I am learning.

NOTE: Because a gerund is a noun, it requires a possessive noun or pronoun before it.

Johnny's swimming has improved this last year.

Not: **Johnny** swimming has improved this last year.

I think that **our** swimming will be even better next year.

Not: I think that **us** swimming will be even better next year.



Trends and innovations in English language teaching

Technological innovations are part of education and English language teaching. Some innovations will not catch on and there are concerns about privacy and data protection. Only the innovations that come with solid teaching practices will stand the test of time. Here is the list of today's innovations.

1. Blended learning

Blended learning is an education program that combines online digital media with traditional classroom methods. It requires the physical presence of both teacher and student, with some elements of student control over time, place, path, or pace. Learn It Town has been used as the ESL practice lab for many schools around the world. Students attend classes at their school and then attend Learn It Town with native teachers.

2. Mobile learning

Online resources are more accessible with a mobile app or a mobile-friendly version. Some programs turn vocabulary-learning into a fun, competitive game you could play with your friends. They have built-in, spaced repetition and active-recall learning to make new words stick.

Others use mobile technology to provide resources for teachers and students, including flashcards, phrasebooks, lesson plans and activities. There are programs which help learners to practise their listening through, high-quality recordings divided into levels and coupled with comprehension questions.

3. Gamification

The concept of "gamification" - using game elements in non-game contexts to motivate and persuade.

On an even more immersive scale, Learn It Town plunges the learners into an interactive adventure game. They have to use their language skills to negotiate, collaborate and build friendships in order to escape from a forgotten planet at the edge of the universe. Any learning that takes place is incidental.

4. Embodied learning

Embodied learning is based on the idea that learning is not just about remembering. It involves using the mind and the body, collaborating, discussing and exploring. Learners need to be emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially engaged.

5. Inquiry-based learning (or: 'learning in a complex world')

Active learning starts by posing questions, problems or scenarios—rather than simply presenting established facts or portraying a smooth path to knowledge. The process is often assisted by a facilitator. Inquirers will identify and research issues and questions to develop their knowledge or solutions. Inquiry-based learning includes problem-based learning, and is generally used in small scale investigations and projects, as well as research. The inquiry-based instruction is principally very closely related to the development and practice of thinking skills.

6. English as a lingua franca (ELF)

English is used as a lingua franca (ELF) - a common language between people who do not share the same native language.

There are four main areas that the LFC focuses on, which are thought to be essential for students to get right if they are to remain intelligible. These are:

- 1) Most consonant sounds
- 2) Appropriate consonant cluster simplification
- 3) Vowel length distinctions
- 4) Nuclear stress

7. Multi-literacies and trans-languaging

In global communities where English is a common language of communication alongside other languages, knowledge of other languages is an asset. Rather than diminish the learners' first language (also known as subtractive bilingualism), teachers are encouraging learners to use their own languages. This requires complex social and cognitive skills. In contrast, strict English-only classrooms are slowly becoming a

thing of the past.

8. Supporting learners of specific needs

As globalisation takes hold, 'glocalisation' (adapting an international product to match what people want in their particular country or culture) becomes necessary. The more we understand individual learners' needs, the more we can tailor our lessons to suit them. English for Health and Social Care Workers provides learners not just with medical terms, but also knowledge of policies and procedures in the medical and care industry. Podcast for Legal English includes online learning materials and quizzes to gamify learning.

9. Creating and sharing content

While there's much online content already out there for learners, some programmes and apps allow learners to produce their own content and share what they have created with others. Popular online sites allow both teachers and students to create online games and play games that are shared by users from around the world. Then there are mindmapping sites, comic-strip creation sites and movie-editing/movie-making sites.

Using content-creation tools like these allow learners to use language creatively, and turn language practice into a fun and engaging activity.

10. Learning and teaching management platforms

Learning management platforms (LMSs) are increasingly popular. Learn It Town uses Canvas. They give learners an online way to find handouts, continue classroom discussions and submit homework. Now, online platforms are also used to communicate with parents and other stakeholders, give teachers and administrators a better overview of the curriculum, and help manage lesson plans and materials.

Learn It Town has used many of these tools in their Online Immersive Environment. They have worked with individuals, businesses and schools from over 150 countries.