

## GERUNDIVES & GERUNDS

The **Gerundive** or **Future Passive Participle** is the participle ending in **-ndus -a -um**. The Gerundive is a **verbal adjective**. As an adjective, the gerundive has a full set of endings for each gender, both singular and plural in all cases. It often **has passive meaning** indicating **necessity** or **purpose**.

**Gerund** is a **verbal noun**, formed like the neuter singular of the Gerundive. It has **active meaning**. Gerunds appear in Genitive, Dative, Accusative, and Ablative. The infinitive is used in place of the Nominative of the Gerund.

E.g. amor legendi, *the love of reading*; modus operandi, *the method of operating*

### Passive Uses of the Gerundive

1. Frequently with a form of **esse** to signal *necessity* or *obligation* in the **Second** or **Passive Periphrastic Conjugation**.

E.g.. Carthago delenda est, *Carthage must be destroyed*.

2. As a **Participle** modifying a noun: always passive, denoting *necessity*, *obligation*, or *propriety*.

E.g. fortem et conservandum virum, *a brave man, and worthy to be preserved*.

### Active Uses of the Gerund and the Gerundive

The Gerund and the Gerundive can be used in the Genitive, Dative, Accusative, and Ablative to express **purpose** or to express the **active action of a verb** (with no implication of purpose or necessity).

1. A common use of the gerund is in the **genitive** after nouns or adjectives.

E.g. vivendi modus est optimus, *it is the best manner of living* (Note the active meaning)

2. As a participle with active meaning, the **Gerund** can appear alone or can take a direct object.

E.g.. consilium urbem capiendi, *a design of taking the city*.  
 dat operam agros colendo, *he attends to tilling the fields*.  
 terit tempus scribendo epistulas, *he spends time in writing letters*.

The Romans, however, found the gerund + object construction inelegant and preferred to use the **Gerundive**, agreeing with its noun (a process called *gerundival attraction*).

E.g. consilium urbis capiendae, *a design of taking the city*.  
 dat operam agris colendis, *he attends to tilling the fields*.  
 terit tempus scribendis epistulis, *he spends time in writing letters*.