GERUND AND GERUNDIVE

I. The Gerund
The Gerund is a verbal noun, always active in force. The infinitive of the verbs supplies the nominative case:

\[
\text{Legere est difficile} = \text{To read is difficult (reading is difficult)}
\]

The other cases are formed by adding \(-nd\) to the present stem of the verb (\(-iend\) for 3rd conjugation I-stems and all 4th conjugation verbs), plus the neuter singular endings of the second declension. The Gerund has no plural.

A. Declension of Gerund:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>legere</td>
<td>reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>legendi</td>
<td>of reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>legendo</td>
<td>to/for reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>legendum</td>
<td>reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abl.</td>
<td>legendo</td>
<td>from/with/in/by reading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Gerund as simple noun: The Gerund functions in grammatical cases like any other noun; but it retains its verbal force and may control a direct object or be modified by an adverb:

\[
\text{Cupidus legendi est.} \quad \text{He is desirous of reading.} \quad \text{Obj. Gen.}
\]

\[
\text{Legendo discimus.} \quad \text{We learn by (means of) reading.} \quad \text{Abl. of Means}
\]

\[
\text{Regi libenter parendo* \quad By obeying the king willingly, \quad Abl. of Means}
\text{fortiores fiemus.} \quad \text{we shall become stronger.}
\]

* Note that verbs governing the dative will do so in the gerund form as well.

C. Gerund with \textit{ad} to express purpose:
\textit{Ad} + the gerund will express purpose:

\[
\text{Ad legendum venit.} \quad \text{He comes for the purpose of reading (to read).} \quad \text{But where a direct object is used, the gerundive is preferred.}
\]

D. Gerund with \textit{causa} to express purpose:
The genitive of the gerund followed by \textit{causa} will express purpose:

\[
\text{Legendi causa venit.} \quad \text{He comes for the sake of reading (to read).} \quad \text{But where a direct object is used, the gerundive is preferred.}
\]
II. The Gerundive (Future Passive Participle)

The Gerundive is a verbal adjective and is always passive in force. It is formed by adding -ndus, -a, -um (-iendus, -a, -um with I-stems and 4th conjugation verbs) to the stem of the verb. It declines like a 1st and 2nd declension adjective.

A. Gerundive as simple adjective:
The Gerundive carries a notion of necessity, obligation or propriety and can be used (like any adjective) in simple agreement with its noun:

*Libros legendos habeo.* I have books having to be read (that must be/should be read).

*Fortis et laudandus vir est.* He is a brave man and worthy to be praised.

*Iniuria et non ferenda facta est.* An injury not to be borne has been done.

B. Gerundive with Direct Object:
The Gerundive is always preferred over the Gerund where a direct object in the accusative case is involved:

*Libris legendis discimus.* We learn by books being read (by reading books).

*Cupidus librorum legendorum est.* He is desirous of books being read (of reading books).

C. Gerundive with *ad* + acc. and gen. + *causa* to express purpose:
The Gerundive (like the Gerund) may be used with *ad* + acc. or gen. + *causa* to express purpose. This is the regular construction where a Direct Object is involved.

*Librorum legendorum causa venit.* He comes for the sake of books being read (to read books).

*Ad libros legendoros venit.* He comes for the purpose of books being read (to read books).

D. The Passive Periphrastic Conjugation:
Finally, the gerundive is used with *sum* in the Future Passive Periphrastic Conjugation. Here, also, there is always a notion of necessity, obligation, or propriety. The construction is passive; and the gerundive will agree (number, case, and gender) with the subject of the sentence. Since the gerundive here functions in a verbal setting, agreeing with the subject of the sentence, the case will always be nominative (or accusative in indirect speech).

*Carthago delenda est.* Carthage must (should) be destroyed.

*Nautae videndi sunt.* The sailors must be seen.

Dative of Agent with Passive Periphrastic:
If the agent of the action is expressed, the dative case is used:

*Carthago nobis delenda est.* Carthage must be destroyed by us.

*Nautae videndi sunt tibi.* The sailors must be seen by you.