Grammar Talk 9 - Gerunds

1. A: Sylvia avoids driving downtown.
   B: She doesn't enjoy driving downtown? Why not?
   A: She always has trouble finding a parking place.
   B: I thought she was good at finding a parking place.
   A: She's good at finding a parking place, but she's tired of looking for one.
   B: Personally, I can't stand driving downtown.

2. A: You keep talking about the weather, and it's boring.
   B: I'm interested in learning more about the weather.
   A: But, I'm tired of hearing about the weather all the time.
   Can't we change the subject?
   B: I'm sorry, I can't stop talking about the weather. I think it's going to rain tomorrow.
   A: Instead of talking about the weather, let's discuss politics.

3. A: Did you hear about Spike? The police accused him of robbing a jewelry store.
   B: I'm sure he's guilty of robbing it. He told me he was planning on doing it.
   A: He denied robbing the store, but they put him in jail anyway.
   B: He probably misses being with his friends.
   A: Yes, and he dislikes eating prison food.
   B: Personally, I couldn't stand being in jail.

4. A: He anticipates getting out of jail in a year.
   B: I bet he's looking forward to getting out.
   A: He certainly is. He's really tired of not being free.
   B: He spends a lot of time reading and writing so he can pass his GED.
   A: He also practices playing the guitar.
   B: When he gets out, he won't risk getting arrested again.
   He's going to obey the law.

5. A: His girlfriend Tina admitted helping him rob the store.
   B: She was probably afraid of helping him.
   A: Yes. And now she really regrets driving the car.
   B: I thought she didn't believe in committing crimes.
   A: The problem is, she can't help loving Spike.
   B: But, her parents told her she must quit seeing him.

6. A: Why do you insist on talking about politics?
   B: I can't have a conversation without talking about politics. It's so interesting.
   A: But, it's boring. You have a one-track mind. Would you mind changing the subject?
   B: But I don't complain about listening to your small talk.
   A: I apologize for talking about small matters.
   B: Thank you for apologizing. Now, let's discuss the recent election.

7. A: Do you like to watch TV?
   B: Yes, I enjoy watching TV. Watching TV is my favorite way to relax.
   A: I'm tired of watching TV all the time.
   B: Is that why you avoid watching TV after work?
   A: Yes, I can't stand hearing the TV on all the time.
   B: I'm excited about seeing the movie on Channel 9.

8. A: Do you and your friends like to dance?
   B: Yes, we enjoy dancing. Dancing is our favorite recreation.
   A: I practice dancing every day, but I'm still not a good dancer.
   B: I think you're capable of being a great dancer.
   A: Thank you for encouraging me.
   B: Keep on dancing even though you're frustrated.

9. A: I'm sure you'll enjoy working at The Big Name.
   B: Yes. I'm looking forward to serving the customers.
   A: You're also responsible for sweeping the floor.
   B: Nobody told me that. I object to sweeping the floor. I'm a salesperson, not a janitor.
   A: Aren't you proud of working at The Big Name?
   B: I thought I was in charge of selling clothes on this floor, not sweeping it.

10. A: I sometimes dream about becoming an acrobat.
    B: You really want to risk walking on a thin rope?
    A: I'm excited about performing in a circus.
    B: You should quit thinking about doing that.
    A: You can't prevent me from dreaming about it.
    B: I would worry about walking on a tight rope if I were you.
11. A: Does Michael like to visit his mother-in-law?  
B: No, he can’t stand visiting her.  
A: Why does he worry about visiting her? She’s very nice.  
B: He hates seeing his mother-in-law’s four cats.  
A: Why does he object to being around her cats?  
B: Whenever he sees them, he starts sneezing.  
12. A: Michael isn’t accustomed to being around cats.  
B: Is that why he can’t help coughing and sneezing?  
A: Yes. He should plan on getting an allergy test.  
B: If he isn’t used to being around cats, he should get a cat.  
A: Then, he won’t ever be able to stop sneezing.  
B: True, but he can’t avoid visiting his mother-in-law forever.  
B: Why not? We’re considering buying the house at 320 Sycamore Street.  
A: But, I’m not accustomed to painting and decorating.  
B: Once you practice painting, you’ll find it’s not too difficult.  
A: Painting and redecorating are very time consuming.  
B: It’s true. Once you start painting, you have to finish painting. You can’t stop painting.  
14. A: How did you learn to swim so well?  
B: Well, I started swimming when I was young.  
A: I envy you. Personally, I’m afraid of swimming.  
B: If you’re used to swimming, you stop being afraid of it.  
A: I would like to practice swimming a few times.  
B: Good. Don’t risk swimming in deep water at first.  
15. A: How did you learn to use a computer so well?  
B: I practiced using a computer a lot in college.  
A: So now you’re used to working with the computer.  
B: I’m excited about using my computer all the time.  
A: You never get tired of sitting at the computer?  
B: No. Besides, I’m responsible for writing web pages. It’s my job.  
16. A: I believe in working overtime. That’s why I don’t quit working at 5 o’clock.  
B: I don’t blame you for working hard. You need the money.  
A: I’m not concerned about getting home late.  
B: Don’t you have trouble falling to sleep at night?  
A: I never think about falling to sleep. It just happens.  
B: How would you feel about starting early tomorrow?  
17. A: Starting early doesn’t bother me. What time?  
B: 7:30 AM. You’re in charge of opening the office.  
A: I will plan on being here at 7:30 AM sharp.  
B: All right. You’re responsible for making sure the computers are turned on.  
A: Don’t worry. I’m very good at taking care of details.  
B: You’re right. You’re very capable of doing excellent work.  
18. A: How long have you been thinking about getting married?  
B: Well, I considered getting married years ago, but I never did.  
A: Getting married is a wonderful idea.  
B: I was worried about getting married because I was worried about money.  
A: Don’t be afraid of not having money. It all works out.  
B: Also, I’m accustomed to living by myself.  
19. A: I have a new cat. Her name is Sally.  
B: Great news. You hesitated getting a cat for a long time.  
A: Sally keeps on jumping on my lap.  
B: That’s probably because she loves sitting on you.  
A: She can’t help licking my hands and face.  
B: I envy you. You should be proud of having a beautiful new cat.  
A: Sally taught me how to stop sneezing.  
B: But, starting your own business is a great idea.  
A: I’m having trouble giving a name to the new store.  
B: I suggest naming it the Saver Store.  
A: Why do you insist on calling it that? Do you think people will save money at my store?  
B: Yes, and I’m sure they won’t mind saving money!