

5 Living in the middle of nowhere → SB 97; G9

Complete the text about 'small town America' with gerunds. Then look at the gerunds: Are they the **subject** or the **object** of the sentence? Use two different colours and mark them in the text.

hang out get move live go start be leave find

Although about 50 percent of all Americans have their homes in 'small town America' - towns and villages with 50,000 people or fewer, living (subject) in this type of place can be difficult for teenagers. Some may enjoy going (object) to the mall and hanging out (object) with friends, but others definitely feel trapped 'in the middle of nowhere'. Getting (subject) to a city or even another urban area often takes hours by car. It's no wonder many dream of moving away, but leaving (subject) family and friends behind and starting (subject) a new life in a city isn't easy. Some say that finding (subject) a job and a cheap place to live is the biggest problem while others just miss being (object) with the people back home. For the lucky ones, moving (subject) to a city is the first step on the road to success. Just think of Madonna, Brad Pitt, Miley Cyrus and other celebrities who grew up 'in the middle of nowhere' too.

6 Albin, Wyoming → SB 98; G9

Two teenagers from Albin, a town in Wyoming with only 200 people talk about their lives. Put in the missing **verb + preposition** or **adjective + preposition** and complete the sentences with gerund constructions.

feel | get used | good | interested |
look forward | ~~think~~ | tired | worried

about | at | in | like |
of | to

I'm thinking of leaving (leave) when I finish school. I'm not interested in working
_____ (work) on a farm, and there aren't many other jobs around here.

Also, I'm tired of seeing _____ (see) the same faces every day! I'm not worried
about starting _____ (start) a new life in a strange place. It'll be an adventure.

I love my life here. I'm very good at looking after _____ (look after)
animals, and I'm looking forward to working _____ (work) on
my family's farm when I finish school. I love the countryside, and I could never
get used to living _____ (live) in a city. If I feel like visiting
(visit) one, I can just get on a train or a plane.



7

I love it here! → SB 98; G9

- ec9 ○ Tim is calling Julian, his friend, who moved with his parents from their small town to New York City.
○ Complete the dialogue with the correct verb tenses and gerund forms. Add prepositions where necessary.

feel like / spend | miss / go | mind / live | love / be | think / visit |
get tired / live | keep / feel | look forward / see

Tim: How are you? Have you got tired of living in the big, bad city yet?

Julian: No, not at all! I love being here in New York! It's just awesome to have so many activities to choose from.

Tim: We have stores and a theater and a museum here in Hamburg too.

Julian: You know what I mean. I really don't miss going shopping at the farmers' market.

Tim: But you didn't really mind living here in Hamburg, did you?

Julian: No, of course not. But, at the same time, I kept feeling that I wanted something different. I just didn't feel like spending the rest of my life there.

I'm thinking of visiting next month. I'm really looking forward
to seeing my family and old friends again.