

# Read and Discover

- a. Plants and animals can threaten established ecosystems by **becoming invasive**.
- b. **Controlling invasive species** can be a difficult task.

Circle the simple predicate in each sentence. Draw a box around each verb form ending in *-ing*. Is either *-ing* form part of a simple predicate? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the boldfaced phrase in sentence a. the sentence subject, an indirect object, or the object of a preposition? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the boldfaced phrase in sentence b. the sentence subject, a predicate noun phrase, or the object of a preposition? \_\_\_\_\_

A **gerund** is a verbal that acts as a noun. All gerunds are verb forms that end with *-ing*. A **gerund phrase** is made up of a gerund and the other words that complete its meaning. In the sentences above, *becoming invasive* and *Controlling invasive species* are gerund phrases.

See Handbook Section 25a

## Part 1

Underline each gerund phrase. Draw a box around the gerund itself.

1. Non-native species become invasive by taking over resources and by harming native species.
2. Competing with native species for food is one example of how invasive species can unbalance an ecosystem.
3. Non-native tree frogs called *coqui* are skilled at hunting Hawaii's snails, insects, and spiders.
4. These tree frogs may impact native Hawaiian birds by consuming the birds' preferred prey.
5. The frogs may also harm native birds by sustaining large populations of the birds' predators.
6. Introduced predators can reduce populations of native animals by preying on them.
7. The brown tree snake has negatively impacted the ecology of Guam by eating large numbers of lizards and birds.
8. Hanging on power lines is another way brown tree snakes cause damage.
9. Invasive plant species can harm native plants by blocking their sunlight.
10. The salvinia plant presents a threat by covering the surfaces of ponds and lakes.
11. The salvinia kills underwater plants by blocking off all light.
12. Sometimes scientists can find animals that are ideally suited for controlling an invasive species.
13. Scientists have used salvinia weevils to control salvinia by introducing the weevil to heavily infested areas.
14. The weevil larvae kill the salvinia plants by burrowing into their buds and stems.



The salvinia weevil eats only the salvinia plant, so it is safe to introduce as a biological control agent.