

The with Gerunds or Abstract Nouns

The is required before gerunds or abstract nouns that are followed by *of* phrases.

<i>gerund</i>	The instructing of young children is difficult.
	<i>but</i> Instructing young children is difficult.
<i>abstract noun</i>	The instruction of young children is difficult.

The gerund in a *the* + _____ + *of* construction is least common, and a true noun form, if it exists, is preferred in this construction.

Change the verbs in the parentheses to gerunds and-or abstract nouns. Be sure to use *the* if *of* follows the changed verb. If more than one choice is possible, determine which are preferable.

Example: a. (imprison, people) without a trial is not part of the democratic process.
(The imprisoning of people, imprisoning people, the imprisonment of people)
without a trial is not part of the democratic process. (the second and third choice are preferable.)

1. (collect, garbage) is done by the Sanitation Department.

2. (invent, cotton gin) changed the economy of the South.

3. (standardize, the divorce laws) for all the states would be favored by many people in the United States.

4. (discover, new evidence) has brought about a postponement of his trial.

5. (shut down, the coal mines) caused great hardship in the town.

6. There was something about (describe, the robbery) by the victim that didn't seem quite right.
