

## The with Gerunds or Abstract Nouns

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

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<i>gerund</i>	The instructing of young children is difficult.
	<i>but</i> Instructing young children is difficult.
<i>abstract</i>	The instruction of young children is difficult.
<i>noun</i>	
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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.
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2. (invent, cotton gin) changed the economy of the South.
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3. (standardize, the divorce laws) for all the states would be favored by many people in the United States.
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4. (discover, new evidence) has brought about a postponement of his trial.
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5. (shut down, the coal mines) caused great hardship in the town.
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6. There was something about (describe, the robbery) by the victim that didn't seem quite right.
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