Grammar Self-Checks
(Unit 5, page 52)

Possessives with gerunds
Look at the statements using possessives before gerunds to indicate the
performer of an action.

The kid’s singing was too loud.
Your constant arguing is getting on my nerves.
I didn’t like their talking during the movie.
You should complain about Sam’s cutting in line.
The thing that bothers me is her smoking.

FIGURE IT OUT...

Fill in the blanks.
1. What possessives are used in the example sentences?

________________________________________
2. What gerunds are used in the example sentences?

________________________________________

3. Check the correct statement.
☐ a. Possessives with gerunds can be used as either the subject or object in a sentence.
☐ b. Possessives with gerunds can be used only as the subject in a sentence.

Look at the examples of informal spoken English.

I can understand John being annoyed. (instead of “John’s being annoyed”)
I can’t accept them ignoring me. (instead of “their ignoring me”)

FIGURE IT OUT...

Fill in the blanks.
1. What noun is used instead of the possessive “John’s” in the first sentence? ______________________
2. What object pronoun is used instead of the possessive in the second sentence? ______________________

Circle the letter of the best answer.
3. Which form is more appropriate for informal spoken English?
   a. possessive + gerund    b. pronoun + gerund