Gerund and Gerundive

I. The gerundive is a passive participle, a verbal adjective, and can modify nouns. It is used attributively in the oblique cases; in the nominative (sometimes accusative, e.g. in O.O.) in the passive periphrastic conjugation with *esse* and dative of agent:

> *nuntiatur terrae motus cum multis metuendisque rebus*
> *si Galli bellum facere conabuntur, excitandus nobis erit ab inferis C. Marius*
>> (personal construction with transitive verbs)
> *nec vero corpori soli subveniendum est, sed menti*
>> (impersonal construction with intransitive verbs: *corpori* & *menti* are not agents)

As in the third example, the impersonal construction is used in the nominative neuter only; the verb is followed by the same case as the active verb, but if the verb takes a dative object (e.g. *parco* or, as in the example, *subvenio*), the agent, if expressed, is ablative (with *ab* if a person).

In addition to the passive periphrastic construction, the gerundive can also appear after a verb meaning to give, hand over, confer, and so on (e.g., *committo*, *concedo*, *defero*, *relinquo*, *trado*), to indicate necessity or intention. Cf. the use of the accusative, below.

The gerund is a verbal noun, always active in meaning. It has no nominative case (the infinitive is a nominative verbal noun). It takes objects like verbs, not objective genitives. It is not used in the accusative as a direct object: the infinitive is.

II. The gerundive construction is usually substituted for the gerund plus object (*fide servanda* for *fidem servando*, both meaning 'by preserving good faith') when the gerund has an accusative object, especially when the gerund is the object of a preposition, or dative (*BA* 395.i). The meaning remains active. See examples below.

The gerund retains its accusative object:
> When the object is a neuter pronoun or adjective (to avoid ambiguity with the masculine)
>> *consilium est aliquid faciendi excogitata ratio*
>> *subabsurda dicendo et stulta reprehendo risus moventur*
> When the gerund is in the genitive and its object is plural (to avoid the repetition of first
and second declension genitive plural endings). Caesar cares a lot about this, Cicero little.

Examples of how gerund and gerundive may be used in various cases:

Accusative (only with prepositions; usually *ad* = expression of purpose)
> *nulla res tantum ad dicendum proficit quantum scriptio*
> *vivis non ad deponendam sed ad confirmandam audaciam*

Genitive (very common)
> subjective or objective
>> *sapientia ars vivendi putanda est*
>> *non tam commutandarum quam evertendarum rerum cupidos*
> with *causa, gratia* (purpose)
>> *vitandae suspicionis causa*   *exercendae memoriae gratia*

Dative (rare) with verbs & expressions (*praeesse, operam dare, diem dicere, locum capere*)
        praeesse agro colendo   *diem praestitit operi faciendo*
    with adjectives (fitness, adaptability, e.g. *idoneus*): post-classical.
        genus armorum aptum tegendis corporibus

Ablative (most frequent):
    manner, means, cause, specification
        multa pollicendo persuadet
        Latine loquendo cuivis par
        his ipsis legendis
    after comparatives
        nullum officium referenda gratia magis necessarium est
    after the prepositions *ab*, *de*, *ex*, *in* and *pro*
        in re gerenda versari