

# GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES

The **Grammar and reading** section looks at different verb patterns, with verbs followed by the **Infinitive** (with or without *to*) and by a **gerund**. Whether you use a gerund or an infinitive depends on the **main verb** in the sentence. Gerunds and infinitives are very common in English language. Sometimes you may use an infinitive and a gerund (with or without a change in meaning). Sometimes you have to choose between the two, because using one may be completely wrong. Common rules and some of the verbs followed by a gerund or an infinitive are listed below.



## GERUNDS

**are nouns formed from verbs.**

Gerunds are formed by **adding -ing** to **the end of a verb.**

## INFINITIVES

**An infinitive is the basic form of the verb.**

It may be a full infinitive (**to + infinitive**) or a bare/zero infinitive (**without the preposition to**).

# GERUNDS - USE

## 1. As subjects or objects of a sentence

- **Collecting** stamps is my hobby.
- I like **collecting** stamps.

## 2. After prepositions

- They are **interested in** studying archaeology.
- They **dream of** becoming archaeologists.

## 3. After specific verbs/verbal expressions

like  
hate  
dislike  
can't stand  
mind  
look forward to  
enjoy  
prefer  
fancy  
feel like

start  
stop  
continue  
Begin  
finish  
quit  
give up  
practise

remember  
forget  
avoid  
can't help

- I **enjoy** watching football on TV.
- She **started** playing the guitar two years ago.

## 4. Go + ing

- We're **going** shopping tomorrow.
- I **go** swimming twice a week.

## 5. be/get used to + ing

- I'm **used to** getting up early in the morning.

## CHECK IT OUT!

**Gerund looks like a continuous tense but it's used differently.**

- **Eating in class is not allowed. (gerund)**
- **He was eating in class. (past continuous)**

# FULL INFINITIVE - USE

## 1. After specific verbs

want  
agree  
accept  
refuse  
reject  
invite

decide  
choose  
plan  
learn  
hope

manage  
achieve  
promise  
ask  
offer

- He offered me a cold beer but I refused **to drink** it.
- When they finish high school, they plan **to go** to university.

## 2. In the structure: It is + adjective + full infinitive

It's nice to  
It is hard to  
It is difficult to  
It is easy to  
etc.

- It's nice **to see** you again.
- It was hard **to say** goodbye after the holidays.

## 3. In the structure: I am + adjective + full infinitive

I am sorry to  
I am surprised to  
I am pleased to  
I am glad to  
I am happy to  
I am amazed to  
I am delighted to

- We were surprised **to have** an unexpected guest in our house.

## 4. too...to/(not) enough...to

- This coffee is too hot **to drink**!
- She hasn't got enough time **to finish** the test.

# BARE INFINITIVE - USE

## 1. After auxiliaries/modals

- He can **speak** Spanish.
- She would **help** you if she could.

## 2. After the verbs let, make

- David's mother **let** him **use** her car.
- My brother often **makes** me **laugh**.

## 3. After rather, better and had better

- You had better **consult** a doctor.
- I would rather **wait**.

## 4. After but, save and than

- She can do everything but **cook**.

# GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES WITH A CHANGE IN MEANING

## STOP

- **stop + gerund**

They stopped **talking** when the bell rang.

(to end an activity)

- **stop + infinitive**

We stopped **to buy** petrol on our way to Bristol.

(the reason for stopping)

## REMEMBER

- **remember + gerund**

I remember **singing** funny songs with my grandfather.

(a memory)

- **remember + infinitive**

I remembered **to put** the rubbish outside.

(I did it.)

## FORGET

- **forget + gerund**

I forgot **reading** this book before.

(I read it but I have no memory of it.)

- **forget + infinitive**

I forgot **to turn** my car lights off and ended up with

a flat battery. (I didn't do it.)

## TRY

- **try + gerund**

I have tried **taking** paracetamol and having a massage

but my neck still hurts.

(the various processes tried to reach an aim)

- **try + infinitive**

I tried **to catch** the mouse but it was too quick.

(my aim)

## REGRET (HATE)

- **regret + gerund**

I regret **dropping** out of university.

(I wish I hadn't done it)

- **regret + infinitive**

I regret **to inform** you that your application wasn't successful.

(regret/hate to inform)

## LIKE

- **like + gerund**

I like **walking** in the countryside.

(enjoy)

- **like + infinitive**

I like **to do** the house work before breakfast.

(prefer)

\*the difference is very small

## MEAN

- **mean + gerund**

We have to be at the airport by 7 a.m. It means **getting up**

at 5 a.m. (involve)

- **mean + infinitive**

I'm sorry I didn't mean **to tear** the paper.

(It wasn't my intention/it was an accident)

# GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES WITH NO/LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN MEANING

The following verbs can be followed by a to-infinitive or a gerund, with no/little difference in meaning.

- **BEGIN**

He began *singing*. He began *to sing*.

- **CONTINUE**

She continued *to talk* about politics. She continued *talking* about politics.

- **HATE**

Do you hate *working* on Saturdays? Do you hate *to work* on Saturdays?

- **LIKE**

I like *swimming*. I like *to swim*.

- **LOVE**

She loves *painting*. She loves *to paint*.

- **PREFER**

Pat prefers *walking* home. Pat prefers *to walk* home.

- **START**

They started *to study* after dinner. They started *studying* after dinner.

**Task 1 Use your own ideas to complete the sentences below with gerunds or infinitives.**

1. At the weekend, I love \_\_\_\_\_
2. One day, I would like \_\_\_\_\_
3. I don't mind \_\_\_\_\_
4. I would never refuse \_\_\_\_\_
5. When I was a child, I enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_
6. I have recently decided \_\_\_\_\_
7. I have never tried \_\_\_\_\_
8. Tomorrow I must \_\_\_\_\_
9. My teacher often tells me \_\_\_\_\_
10. I sometimes forget \_\_\_\_\_
11. In the future, I hope \_\_\_\_\_
12. I wish people would stop \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 2** Read the rules and then make a table in your notebook as shown in Exercise 5, p 43, **SB**. Put the verbs from the box in the correct column.

**Task 3** Rewrite the sentences so that they mean the same, using the words in capital letters.  
(**SB**, p 43, Exercise 8)

I started the race, but I didn't manage to finish. (FAILED)  
*I started the race, but I failed to finish it.*

**Task 4 Workbook Unit 5 (pp 40-41)**

Do the following: Exercises 1, 2, 3, 5

Watch the video "**How to use GERUNDS and INFINITIVES**" to get more informed:  
**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2\\_Qic03XFI&t=42s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2_Qic03XFI&t=42s)**

**NASTAVA NA DALJINU**

**UNIT 5 - BAD OR GOOD?**

**GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES**

**UDŽBENIK NEW SUCCESS UPPER-INTERMEDIATE**

**3. RAZRED, GIMNAZIJA FRA GRGE MARTIĆA POSUŠJE**