



# Gerunds and infinitives

MEANING

- TO + INF: After a verb often describes a future event, an event following the main verb
- The GERUND describes the an activity

## THE GERUND

## THE INFINITIVE

uses

**Subject** of a verb: drinking is bad for you

- After **certain verbs**: They agreed to come

**Object** of a verb: do you like dancing?

- After **certain verbs and person**: Peter asked her to come here

The **complement** of to be: his favourite sport is playing tennis

- After **to be**: My last reaction was to call you
- To express **purpose**: She went to Paris to tell you the new news.

After **prepositions**: His father is really good at listening to the rest.

- After **BE + Adjective** (+of + noun/pronoun):
  - It was great to hear from you
  - He is very kind to do manage the course
  - It is nice of you to help me.
- After the **first/second/last/only/best** (and other superlatives adjectives) + noun or pronoun "one":
  - Peter was the only one to pass

After **possessive adjectives, nouns and object pronouns**: I hope she does not mind Peter coming to the wedding

- After **a noun/pronoun**.(the verb in the infinitive relates to the preceding noun/pronoun)
  - I have a few homework to correct
  - I have a lot of things to do.
  -
- After verbs of **knowing** and **believing**: V+OBJ+INF or Verbs in the passive + infinitive:
  - She knows you to be an excellent man
  - It is believed to be our problem

- In certain expressions:
  - Thanks for sharing
  - No swimming/smoking/drinking
  - Is this for peeling potatoes
  - What about meeting this afternoon at five.
  - I usually go skiing at the weekend.

- After **verb + question word**:
  - I am not sure which room to book.
- After **too** and **adj.** and after **adj.** and **enough**:
  - Mary is too nice to reject
  - The plane isn't good enough to compete with it
- After **is/are** to describe a future event:
  - They are to become 18 next year.

- **NOTE:** Gerunds can take objects and can be qualified by adverbs: I enjoy watching films(obj) so funny(adv)

- **NOTE:** infinitives can take objects and can be qualified by adverbs:- Maria wanted the rice quickly



## NEGATIVE FORMS

- NOT + GERUND

- NOT + (TO-) INFINITIVE

## THE BARE INFINITIVE

### USES

After modals and after auxiliaries do/did:

- You should come
- You can swim
- Did you finish your exam properly?

After let's... (Us): - Let's go dancing and drinking.

After make + noun/pronoun object: she makes me laugh very often.

After would rather: I'd rather stay out during the weekend.

After has better: I'd better go work now.

After why not...? Why not call me Peter.

After the verb **HELP** we can use the to-infinitive or the bare infinitive:

- Could you help your sister (to) do her homework?

After a verb of perception ( see, watch, notice, feel hear) + object:

- I didn't hear you come in

When there is a series of infinitives after a verb:

- I'd like to come and see you.



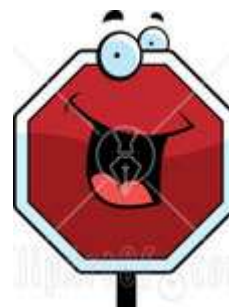
## Verbs of perception + object + ing or the bare infinitive

Verbs of perception : ( See, notice, look at, watch, feel, hear, listen to) can be followed by the -ing or the bare infinitive.

The verb smell can only be followed by the ing form



Verbs + infinitive	Verbs + gerund
<p>agree, aim, appear, arrange, ask, attempt, beg, can't afford, can't wait, choose, claim, decide, demand, desire, expect, fail, guarantee, happen, help, hope, manage, offer, plan ,prepare, pretend, promise, prove, refuse, seem, tend, threaten, turn out , undertake, want, wish</p>	<p>admit, avoid, can't face can't help can't resist can't stand, carry on consider, delay, deny, detest, dislike, enjoy, excuse, fancy, finish, give up, imagine, involve, justify, keep {on}, mention, mind, postpone, practise, put off, resent, risk, save, suggest ,tolerate.</p>
Verbs + gerund or infinitive	
<p>Some verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive, and the meaning remains the same: begin, propose, forbid, intend, start...</p>	
<p>Some verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive, but the meaning changes (stop, remember, forget...)</p>	
<p><b>FORGET and REMEMBER</b>            We use <i>forget/remember doing</i> for memories of the past.            We use <i>forget/remember to do</i> for actions someone is/was supposed to do (the remembering happens before the action).            Peter won't <b>forget calling</b> you.            I <b>remember opening</b> the door.</p>	
<p><b>GO ON</b>            We use <i>go on doing</i> when we continue doing something.            We use <i>go on to do</i> when we move on to do something else.            Sarah <b>went on dancing</b> all day. (did the same thing)            The kind <b>went on to say</b> they did their homework.</p>	
<p><b>MEAN</b>            We use <i>mean doing</i> when one thing results in or involves another.            We use <i>mean to do</i> to express an intention.            This <b>means leaving</b> at 6.00. (involves)            This <b>means that</b> we will have to leave at 6.00. (has a result)</p>	
<p><b>REGRET</b>            We use <i>regret doing</i> when we are sorry about something that happened in the past.            Kate <b>regretted not buying</b> the house.            We use <i>regret to inform/to tell</i> when we are giving bad news. This use is formal.            I <b>regret to tell</b> you that you have failed this examination.</p>	
<p><b>STOP</b>            We use <i>stop doing</i> when we end an action.            We use <i>stop to do</i> when we give the reason for stopping.            I <b>stopped going</b> to evening classes. (gave up going)            I <b>stopped to buy</b> some coffee. (in order to buy)</p>	





## Verbs followed by the to-infinitive or gerund

	INFINITIVE	GERUND
BE	Our plan is to open the restaurant next week -describes a complete event. - Normally after: plan, aim, intention, decision, and solution.	My favourite sport is skiing (the gerund behaves like a noun and describes an activity)
REMEMBER	Did you remember to post the letter I gave you yesterday. - Means: not to forget to do something.	I clearly remember phoning her the other day. - Means: remember something that happened in the past'.
FORGET	I mustn't forget to phone to phone her. - Means 'something you forgot to do'	I've never forgotten meeting her for the first time ten years ago - Means: an action in the past you still remember.
TRY	She is trying to get brown in the sun - Means 'make an effort to'	Why don't you try sleeping without an pillow? - Means 'make an attempt' or 'do something to see if it has an effect
REGRET	I regret to inform you that your application for the post has been rejected -Means 'be sorry to communicate bad news.	I regret giving up my last job. - Means 'be sorry that one has done something
STOP	I stopped to get a newspapers I was driving to school. - Means 'pause in the order to do something else'	Will you please stop making that noise? - Means 'not continue'
GO ON	After an unsuccessful first year at college, she went on to get a first –class degree. - Move to something different	We went on talking all night - Continuo doing the same thing.
LIKE/ DISLIKE/ LOVE/ HATE	I like going for a walk before dinner. (I like the activity but I do not do it regularly)	I love to go for a walk before dinner - Describes a regular activity. I love it because I think is a good idea.
PREFER	I don't go out at the weekend. I prefer to stay in. I don't go out at the weekend. I prefer to staying in. The meaning of these sentences is very similar.	
BEGIN/ START/ CONTINUE	He began/started/continued shouting The meaning of theses sentences is very similar He began/started/continued to shout	
ADVISE/ ALLOW/ ENCOURAGE/ FORBID/ RECOMMEND	They recommend/advised us to leave They Advised leaving These verbs are usually followed by an object+ to-infinitive. Occasionally they have no object. In that case, they take a gerund.	
NEED	I need to get up early at the weekends It is necessary for me to do it.	The house needs cleaning. Need + gerund have a passive meaning. Someone needs to clean the car, doesn't matter who does it.

## Preposition + Gerund

After preposition, we use the gerund.

CASES	EXAMPLE
Preposition + Gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- After reading the book, he changed his point of view.</li> <li>- You should not have approved the letter without asking me first.</li> </ul>
Adjective/noun+ prep + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are interested in going to the cinema</li> <li>- He has shown a lot interest in applying for this job.</li> </ul>
Verb + preposition + gerund/phrasal verb + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They succeeded in getting the new contract</li> <li>- She apologised for disturbing her.</li> <li>- They carried on working.</li> </ul>
Verb + obj.(Person/personal pronoun) + preposition + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We dissuaded him from writting the letter.</li> <li>- she accused him of cheating.</li> </ul>
Verb + preposition + object pronoun or possessive adjective + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They Agreed on us /ours sharing the expenses.</li> <li>- My boss complained about me/my arriving late last night.</li> </ul>
NOTE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We use an object pronoun (me, us) more often than a possessive adjective (my, our) after a preposition. The use of a possessive adjective is rather formal.</li> <li>- "TO" may be part of a the to-infinitive, or it may be a preposition preceding a gerund.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	



## Adjective + to infinitive

We can use a to-infinitive after an adjective

CASES	EXAMPLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An adjective + to-infinitive often comes in this structure with <b>it + be</b>.</li> <li>- The subject can also be a person.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>It's important to look</b> in the mirror. <b>It's lovely to see</b> you.</li> <li>- <b>It's quite safe to use</b> the ladder. <b>It was silly to make</b> such a fuss.</li> <li>- <b>I'm delighted to see</b> you. <b>We're ready to start</b> now.</li> </ul>
<b>Certain, sure and likely</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We can use a to-infinitive after <b>certain, sure, likely</b> and <b>unlikely</b>.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- United are <b>certain/sure to win</b>. (= They will certainly win.)</li> <li>- Sarah is <b>likely to be</b> at work. (= She is probably at work.)</li> </ul>
<b>For and of</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- After some adjectives we can use <b>for</b> + object + to-infinitive.</li> <li>- After an adjective describing how someone behaves (e.g. <b>polite, silly</b>), we can use <b>of</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It's <b>important for drivers to take</b> care. It isn't <b>safe for children to play</b> on ladders.</li> <li>- It was <b>polite of Emma to write</b> and thank us. (Emma was polite.) It was <b>silly of me to forget</b> the tickets. (I was silly.)</li> </ul>

