INFINITIVE OR GERUND?



The gerund

The gerund or –ing form of a verb apart from being used in continuous tenses can also be used in the following cases:

⇐ After certain verbs: I like meeting people.

⇐ After prepositions. She was thinking about going on holiday to the Caribbean.

⇐ After certain expressions: I'm fed up with doing the same every day.

⇐ As the subject of a sentence: Eating fruit is good for your health.

Some common verbs that are followed by a gerund are:

⇐ admit ⇐ avoid ⇐ consider ⇐ deny ⇐ dislike ⇐enjoy ⇐ finish ⇐ hate ⇐ keep ⇐ like ⇐ love ⇐ mind ⇐recommend ⇐ suggest

Some expressions that are followed by a gerund are:

▸be fed up with ▸can't help ▸can't stand ▸be used to / get used to ▸feel like ▸give up ▸it's no use ▸look forward to ▸would mind/don't mind ▸can't help ▸be keen on/ be fond of ▸be worth

The infinitive

The infinitive is the verb form that is preceded It is used:

⇐ After some adjectives and adverbs:

He was willing to help me. She's getting ready to go.

She was walking too fast to see me.

⇐ After some verbs like:

▸afford ▸agree ▸appear ▸ask ▸choose ▸decide ▸expect ▸hope ▸intend ▸learn ▸manage ▸need ▸offer ▸plan ▸pretend ▸promise ▸refuse ▸teach ▸want ▸wish

⇐ Certain verbs are followed by an object + infinitive:

Ex. My parents want me to go to university.

Some of these verbs are:

Verbs+infinitive or gerund

▸begin ▸start ▸intend ▸continue ▸bother are verbs that can be followed by an infinitive or gerund with little or no difference in meaning:

It has started to rain/ raining.

But after continuous tenses we use an infinitive rather than a gerund:

It's starting to rain.

Some other verbs are followed by an infinitive or a gerund with a difference in meaning. Some of these verbs are:

FORGET + GERUND means to forget that you have done something. Ex: I forgot calling Ann.

FORGET + INFINITIVE means that you forget to do something. Ex: I forgot to call Ann.

REMEMBER + GERUND means that you remember that you have done something. Ex: I remember seeing you there.

REMEMBER + INFINITIVE means that you remember to do something. Ex: I remembered to lock the door before leaving.

STOP + GERUND means not to continue to do an activity. Ex: I stopped working because I was too tired.

STOP + INFINITIVE means you pause in an activity, in order to do something before you continue. Ex: I stopped to tie my shoe.

TRY + GERUND means to experiment with different methods to see it something works. Ex: If you want to lose weight, try eating less sweets.

1 Complete with the infinitive or gerund of the verbs in brackets.

1. She stopped at Smith's ..... (buy) the newspaper.
2. They suggested ..... (have) a pizza for dinner.
3. I can't afford ..... (buy) a house till I get a job.
4. She is used ..... (speak) in public.
5. Ben promised his parents ..... (study) harder.
6. Stop ..... (make) so much noise or you'll wake up the baby.
7. She denied ..... (break) the window but I knew she was guilty.
8. My parents don't allow me ..... (stay) out late at night.
9. Would you mind ..... (lend) me your dictionary?
10. I managed ..... (find) the place with the help of a map.
11. My mobile doesn't work.–Try ..... (change) the batteries.
12. Please remember ..... (study) for the test on Monday.
13. I don't feel like .....(go) out. I'd rather stay at home.
14. She hit the child and made her ..... (cry).

2 Complete with the infinitive or gerund of the verbs in brackets and match to the pictures.

1. It started .....(rain) when they were going home.
2. He couldn't help.....(laugh) when he saw his sleepers.
3. He decided .....(buy) the armchair as it was very comfortable.
4. His mum ordered him.....(go) to bed immediately.
5. Bob is very keen on.....(eat) hamburgers.
6. He learnt .....(play) the piano when he was a boy.
7. Ted told me the book was worth.....(read).
8. His grandfather taught him.....(play) baseball.
9. She apologised for.....(not tell) me the truth.
10. He asked Mary.....(marry) him and she accepted.
11. He is looking forward to .....(go) fishing.
12. You should avoid.....(eat) chocolates if you want .....(lose) weight.
13. He can't get used to.....(get) up early.
14. His teacher advised him.....(study) harder.

LIVEWORKSHEETS