

Gerunds and infinitives

INFINITIVES

We use infinitives:

❖ After an adjective

Example:

She was afraid **to ask** for help.



❖ Certain verbs (with the preposition to)

Example:

I would like
to study abroad.



afford / agree / appear / arrange / beg
/ choose / decide / expect / fail / help
(also without to)
/ hesitate / hope / learn / manage /
mean / offer
/ plan / prepare / pretend / promise
/ refuse / want

GERUNDS

We use gerunds:

❖ As the subject of a clause

Example: **Smoking** is bad for your health.



❖ After a preposition

Example: I did my homework *before* **going out**.



❖ Verbs followed by Gerunds

For example:

She enjoys **cooking**.



admit / advise / allow / avoid
/ can't help / can't stand /
deny / dislike / enjoy / fancy
/ finish / keep / mind / miss
/ permit / practice / suggest
/ waste (time or money)

❖ Verbs with prepositions followed by Gerunds

For example:

I **apologize for** **being** such a horrible person.



accuse of / agree with / apologize for / ask about / believe in / be used to / blame for / care for / carry on / complain about / concentrate on / depend on / dream (about/of) / feel like / forgive for / give up / insist on / keep on / look forward to / object to / think of / succeed in / use for

WORDS FOLLOWED EITHER BY INFINITIVE OR ING-FORM

1. Words with the same meaning

Example:

I started **to read** / I started **reading**



attempt / begin / bother / cannot bear / cease / continue / hate / intend / love / prefer / start

We'll continue **to work** / continue **working**



2. words with the same meaning but different use

Verb

Infinitive – with an object

Advise

I advise **you to go** by bus.

Allow/Permit

He allowed **her to take** the car.

Forbid

She forbids **us to smoke**.

Gerund – without an object

I advise **going** by bus.

He allowed **taking** the car.

She forbids **smoking**.



3. Words with a different meaning

Verb

Forget /

Remember

Infinitive – with an object

Remember **to switch off** the lights

(with regard the future)

Recuerda apagar las luces.



Gerund – without an object

Do you remember **switching off** the lights?

(with regard the past)

¿Recuerdas haber apagado las luces?



Go on

Go on **to read.**

(start something new)

Go on **reading.**

(continue with the same action)



Regret

I regret **to say** that

you are not invited.

(with regard to the future)

Lamento decirle

que no fue invitada.



I regret **saying** this.

(with regard to the past)

Lamento haber dicho eso.



Stop

I stopped **to smoke.**

(interrupt another action)

Paré de fumar.



I stopped **smoking.**

(terminate)

Dejé de fumar.



Try

Try **to solve** this puzzle.

(Do something complicated)

Intenta resolver este puzzle.



Try **talking** to him.

(Do it and see what happens)

Intenta hablar con él.



Exercise 1 – Gerund or Infinitive

- 1) A lot of people are worried about _____ their jobs. (lose)
- 2) He agreed _____ a new car. (buy)
- 3) The question is easy _____ (answer)
- 4) Not everybody can afford _____ to university. (go)
- 5) I look forward to _____ you at the weekend. (see)
- 6) Are you thinking of _____ London? (visit)
- 7) He apologized for _____ so late. (arrive)
- 8) Stop _____ noise, please; I'm studying. (make)
- 9) She doesn't mind _____ the night shift. (work)
- 10) I learned _____ the bike at the age of 5. (ride)

Exercise 2 - Gerund or Infinitive

- 1) We decided _____ a new car. (buy)
- 2) I regret _____ you we won't lend you the money. (tell)
- 3) Peter gave up _____. (smoke)
- 4) He'd like _____ an airplane. (fly)
- 5) I enjoy _____ picture postcards. (write)
- 6) He offered _____ with the cleaning. (help)
- 7) Avoid _____ silly mistakes. (make)
- 8) My parents wanted me _____ home at 11 o'clock. (be)
- 9) I dream about _____ a big house. (build)
- 10) He advised me _____ so much money. (not spend)

Gerund or Infinitive Exercise

Fill the gaps with the verb in brackets in the appropriate form.

1. I **can't stand** _____ in queues. (to wait)
2. I wouldn't like _____ in his shoes. (to be)
3. Jim loves _____ in Thailand. (to work)
4. I **hate** _____ the shopping on Saturday. (to do)
5. Blast! I forgot _____ milk. (to buy)
6. In the end we decided _____ in. (to stay)
7. I **need** _____ some information about Portugal. (to find)
8. My parents **like** _____ for long walks at the weekend. (to go)
9. Tony gave up _____ years ago. (to smoke)
10. I wanted _____ and see Troy but no one else was interested. (to go)
11. Mrs Leith offered _____ us to the airport. (to take)
12. Clare refused _____ clean up after the party. (to help)
13. I tried _____ him to come but it was no use. (to persuade)
14. Do you **mind** not _____? (to smoke)
15. Everybody really enjoyed _____ the cha-cha-cha. (to dance)
16. Lionel admitted _____ my chocolate mousse. (to eat)

Check your answers and put the verbs in bold into the right columns. Translate the verbs.

VERB + GERUND

Translation

admit

.....

enjoy

give up

.....

.....

love

.....

VERB + TO + INFINITIVE

Translation

decide

forget

.....

offer

refuse

try

want

would like

Gerund or Infinitive Exercise 2

Use the verbs in brackets to fill the gaps.

1. We **arranged** _____ under the station clock at half nine. (to meet)
2. I always try to **avoid** _____ him whenever I can. (to see)
3. I long _____ in Scotland again. (to be)
4. My Mum demanded _____ the manager. (to see)
5. My brother **denied** _____ my chocolate mousse. Maybe his hamster ate it. (to eat)
6. I tried _____ but I just couldn't. (to understand)
7. In the end I **gave up** _____ to persuade her. (to try)
8. Charlie was pretending _____ a chicken. (to be)
9. They **chose** _____ in a cheap hotel but spend more money on meals. (to stay)
10. We like Galicia so much that we keep _____ back there. (to go)
11. He **deserves** _____ severely punished. (to be)
12. When we visit my aunt, they expect me _____ on my best behavior. (to be)
13. I didn't mean _____ her feelings. I'm really sorry. (to hurt)
14. I always **put off** _____ my homework until the last possible moment. (to do)
15. He goes on _____ me the same thing over and over again. (to tell)
16. I can't stand _____ in the queue at the baker's. (to wait)
17. The firemen **managed** _____ the fire pretty quickly. (to put out)

18. I never **risk** _____ through that part of town. (to go)
19. Clare offered _____ me to the airport, which was very kind of her. (to take)
20. Dad **threatened** _____ my pocket money if I didn't do my homework. (to stop)

Check your answers and put the verbs in bold into the right columns.

Translate the verbs.

VERB + GERUND

Translation

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

VERB + TO + INFINITIVE

Translation

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Information and exercises taken from:

<http://vslicey.cv.ua/attachments/article/213/Gerund%20or%20Infinitive.pdf>