Gerunds and Infinitives

Gerund = verb + ing

It creates a noun

Eg: swimming, eating

Infinitive = to + verb

Eg: to dance, to sing

When do we use a gerund?

A) We can **start a sentence** with a gerund. Example: Learning grammar is fun!

B) **After prepositions**. Common prepositions followed by gerunds include:

- I am tired of **listening**....
- He disapproves of **meeting**...
- I am in favour of **going**....
- I look forward to **meeting**...
- Thank you for seeing...
- I saved a lot of time by driving...
- I am interested in **seeing**...
- She is worried about **catching**...
- I can get used to **being...**
- He objected to **starting**...
- I have always been fond of reading...

C) After certain verbs and expressions.

(i) Verbs and expressions that are followed by **gerunds**:

appreciate	dislike	postpone	there's / it's no use
admit	enjoy	practise	feel like
avoid	finish	regret	can't help
consider	imagine	risk	give up
delay	keep	put off	be worth (it is worth...)
deny	mind	stop	can't stand
discuss	miss	suggest	

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(ii) The following verbs can be followed **either by a gerund or an infinitive and it means the same**:

begin	like	continue
love	hate	prefer
intend	start	

(iii) The following verbs can be followed **either** by a gerund or an infinitive (to + verb) **but the meaning changes! When we use the gerund, the meaning becomes past looking. When we use the infinitive, the meaning becomes present / future looking. See the examples below:**

Verb	Example	Meaning
Stop	1) After an hour they stopped **walking** around the shop. (gerund)	1) They walked around for an hour and then stopped.
	2) We stopped **to walk** around the shop. (infinitive)	2) They stopped doing something in order to walk around the shop.
Remember	1) I remember **visiting** my aunt when I was little. (gerund)	1) Remember doing something in the past.
	2) I must remember **to visit** my aunt tomorrow. (infinitive)	2) To remember to do something in the future.
Forget	1) I forgot **calling** my friend last night. (gerund)	1) I forgot that I had already done something in the past.
	2) I keep forgetting **to call** the doctor. (infinitive)	2) I forget to do something that I need to do...
Regret	1) I regret not **visiting** her last year. (gerund)	1) I regret that I didn't visit in the past.
	2) I regret **to inform** you that you are in quarantine for now. (infinitive)	2) I regret something that I have to do now / in the future.

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Now, do the following exercises:

A) Order the sentence correctly to begin with a gerund:

(i) activity very important running a is

_____

(ii) to use books allows reading me my imagination

_____

(iii) a exploring is exciting city new

_____

B) Choose either a gerund or the infinitive of the verb in brackets to complete the sentence:

1. There's simply no use _____ (explain), I will never know how to change a tire.
2. Stop _____ (tell) me what to do! I hate it when you order me around!
3. I strongly disapprove of your _____ (arrive) home late at night.
4. I intend _____ (stay) in Israel when I am finished school.
5. Would you consider _____ (have) your party next week so that I can come too?
6. I am interested in _____ (study) ancient cultures and societies.
7. Rather regret _____ (do) something than not _____ (do) it.
8. I really don't mind _____ (help) you as much as I can. It is really a pleasure.
9. Do you prefer _____ (buy) roses or daffodils for your table decoration?
10. I can't help _____ (wonder) where Anne learnt such wonderful manners.
11. I can't believe that I forgot _____ (call) my best friend on her birthday!
12. I suggest _____ (arrive) on time for any professional interview.
13. I look forward to _____ (meet) you.
14. After _____ (walk) around the museum for an hour, the boy _____ (stop) to stare at the Mona Lisa.

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