

# Infinitive and Gerund

## Infinitive

### After an adjective

Example: The new computer is really *easy to use*.

### After certain verbs (with to)

Example: He *refused to pay* the bill.

|           |                                     |           |                |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| • afford  | • expect                            | • manage  | • refuse       |
| • agree   | • fail                              | • mean    | • want         |
| • appear  | • help (also<br>without <i>to</i> ) | • offer   | • wish         |
| • arrange |                                     | • plan    | • would like   |
| • beg     | • hesitate                          | • prepare | • would love   |
| • choose  | • hope                              | • pretend | • would prefer |
| • decide  | • learn                             | • promise |                |

## Gerund

### As the subject of a clause

Example: **Cycling** is good for your health.

### After a preposition

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

### Verbs followed by Gerund

Example: I *enjoy cooking*.

|              |               |          |              |
|--------------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| • admit      | • can't stand | • finish | • practise   |
| • advise     | • deny        | • keep   | • suggest    |
| • allow      | • dislike     | • mind   | • waste time |
| • avoid      | • enjoy       | • miss   | / money      |
| • can't help | • fancy       | • permit |              |

### Verbs with Prepositions followed by Gerund

Example: I'm *looking forward to seeing* you again soon.

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

## Words followed either by Infinitive or Ing-Form

### Words with the same meaning

Example: I started to read. / I started reading.

|           |               |          |          |
|-----------|---------------|----------|----------|
| • attempt | • cannot bear | • hate   | • prefer |
| • begin   | • cease       | • intend | • start  |
| • bother  | • continue    | • love   |          |

## Words with the same meaning but different use

| Word           | Infinitive - with an object     | Gerund – without an object |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| advise         | I advise you to go by bus.      | I advise going by bus.     |
| allow / permit | He allowed her to take the car. | He allowed taking the car. |
| forbid         | She forbids us to smoke.        | She forbids smoking.       |

## Words with a different meaning

| Word              | Infinitive meaning   | Gerund meaning  |
|-------------------|--|---|
| forget / remember | with regard to the future<br><i>Remember to switch off the lights.</i><br>Spanish: Recuerda apagar las luces | with regard to the past<br><i>Do you remember switching off the lights?</i><br>Spanish: ¿Recuerdas haber apagado las luces? |
| go on             | start something new<br><i>Go on to read.</i><br>Spanish:   | continue with the same action<br><i>Go on reading.</i>  |
| regret            | with regard to the future<br><i>I regret to say that's wrong.</i><br>Spanish: Lamento decir que está mal.    | with regard to the past<br><i>I regret saying that.</i><br>Spanish: Lamento haber dicho que está mal.                       |
| stop              | interrupt another action<br><i>I stopped to smoke.</i><br>Spanish: Paré para fumar.                          | terminate<br><i>I stopped smoking.</i><br>Spanish: Paré de fumar.   |
| try               | do something complicated<br><i>Try to solve this riddle.</i><br>Spanish: Intenta resolver este acertijo.     | do it and see what happens<br><i>Try talking to him.</i><br>Spanish: Prueba a hablar con él.                                |

### Gerund or Infinitive - Exercise 1

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)

### Gerund or Infinitive - Exercise 2

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 aeroplane. (fly)  
 5) I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ picture postcards. (write)  
 6) He offered \_\_\_\_\_ help 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 1

1 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 )

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

| VERB + GERUND |             | VERB + TO + INFINITIVE |             |
|---------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
|               | Translation |                        | Translation |
| admit         | .....       | decide                 | .....       |
| _____         | .....       | forget                 | .....       |
| enjoy         | .....       | _____                  | .....       |
| give up       | .....       | offer                  | .....       |
| _____         | .....       | refuse                 | .....       |
| _____         | .....       | try                    | .....       |
| love          | .....       | want                   | .....       |
| _____         | .....       | would like             | .....       |

## Gerund or Infinitive Exercise 2

1 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 behaviour. ( 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 )

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

### VERB + GERUND

### VERB + TO + INFINITIVE

*Translation*

*Translation*

1 \_\_\_\_\_

.....

1 \_\_\_\_\_

.....

2 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 \_\_\_\_\_

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3 \_\_\_\_\_

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3 \_\_\_\_\_

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4 \_\_\_\_\_

.....

4 \_\_\_\_\_

.....

5 \_\_\_\_\_

.....

5 \_\_\_\_\_

.....

## Gerund or Infinitive Exercise 1 **answers**

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

### VERB + GERUND

### VERB + TO + INFINITIVE

#### *Translation*

#### *Translation*

|             |       |            |       |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|
| admit       | ..... | decide     | ..... |
| can't stand | ..... | forget     | ..... |
| enjoy       | ..... | need       | ..... |
| give up     | ..... | offer      | ..... |
| hate        | ..... | refuse     | ..... |
| like        | ..... | try        | ..... |
| love        | ..... | want       | ..... |
| mind        | ..... | would like | ..... |

## Gerund or Infinitive Exercise 2 answers

- 1 We **arranged** to **meet** under the station clock at half nine. ( to meet )
- 2 I always try to **avoid** **seeing** him whenever I can. ( to see )
- 3 I long **to be** in Scotland again. ( to be )
- 4 My Mum demanded **to see** the manager. ( to see )
- 5 My brother **denied** **eating** my chocolate mousse. Maybe his hamster ate it. ( to eat )
- 6 I tried **to understand** but I just couldn't. ( to understand )
- 7 In the end I **gave up** **trying** to persuade her. ( to try )
- 8 Charlie was pretending **to be** a chicken. ( to be )
- 9 They **chose** **to stay** in a cheap hotel but spend more money on meals. ( to stay )
- 10 We like Galicia so much that we keep **going** back there. ( to go )
- 11 He **deserves** **to be** severely punished. ( to be )
- 12 When we visit my aunt, they expect me **to be** on my best behaviour. ( to be )
- 13 I didn't mean **to hurt** her feelings. I'm really sorry. ( to hurt )
- 14 I always **put off** **doing** my homework until the last possible moment. ( to do )
- 15 He goes on **telling** me the same thing over and over again. ( to tell )
- 16 I can't stand **waiting** in the queue at the baker's. ( to wait )
- 17 The firemen **managed** **to put out** the fire pretty quickly. ( to put out )
- 18 I never **risk** **going** through that part of town. ( to go )
- 19 Clare offered **to take** me to the airport, which was very kind of her. ( to take )
- 20 Dad **threatened** **to stop** my pocket money if I didn't do my homework. ( to stop )

### VERB + GERUND

### VERB + TO + INFINITIVE

*Translation*

*Translation*

|         |       |          |       |
|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| avoid   | ..... | arrange  | ..... |
| deny    | ..... | choose   | ..... |
| give up | ..... | deserve  | ..... |
| put off | ..... | manage   | ..... |
| risk    | ..... | threaten | ..... |