

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 | • offer | • wish |
| • arrange | without to) | • 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 <i>Remember to switch off the lights.</i> Spanish: Recuerda apagar las luces	with regard to the past <i>Do you remember switching off the lights?</i> Spanish: ¿Recuerdas haber apagado las luces?
go on	start something new <i>Go on to read.</i> Spanish:	continue with the same action <i>Go on reading.</i>
regret	with regard to the future <i>I regret to say that's wrong.</i> Spanish: Lamento decir que está mal.	with regard to the past <i>I regret saying that.</i> Spanish: Lamento haber dicho que está mal.
stop	interrupt another action <i>I stopped to smoke.</i> Spanish: Paré para fumar.	terminate <i>I stopped smoking.</i> Spanish: Paré de fumar.
try	do something complicated <i>Try to solve this riddle.</i> Spanish: Intenta resolver este acertijo.	do it and see what happens <i>Try talking to him.</i> 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 _____		2 _____	.....
3 _____		3 _____	.....
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	
	<i>Translation</i>		<i>Translation</i>
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)
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- 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)
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- 20 Dad **threatened to stop** my pocket money if I didn't do my homework. (to stop)

VERB + GERUND		VERB + TO + INFINITIVE	
	<i>Translation</i>		<i>Translation</i>
avoid		arrange	.....
deny		choose	.....
give up		deserve	.....
put off		manage	.....
risk		threaten	.....