

Gerund or infinitive?

Use gerund (-ING):

✓ After prepositions:

I am good at playing football

✓ As subject

Having a balanced diet is important

✓ or object:

I really don't like singing

Use infinitive:

✓ After adjectives:

It is not necessary to go there

✓ To say why we do something or why something exists:

Here is an example to help you

He's taken up tennis to make friends

✓ With too and enough:

It's too cold to go swimming

Use infinitive:

✓ After some verbs:

verb + to infinitive	agree appear bother decide demand fail hope learn manage offer plan refuse seem be supposed threaten	She agreed to meet him after work.
verb + (somebody/ something) + to infinitive	ask choose expect help intend promise want	She expected to win the race. I expect you to play in the match.
verb + somebody/ something + to infinitive	advise allow enable encourage forbid force invite order permit persuade recommend remind teach tell warn	The money enabled him to go to university.

- We use these verbs from the lists above to report speech:

advise agree allow ask decide encourage
forbid invite offer order permit persuade
promise recommend refuse remind
tell threaten warn

Use gerund (-ING):

✓ After some verbs:

admit appreciate avoid celebrate consider
delay deny dislike enjoy finish imagine
involve keep mind miss postpone practise
regret risk stop suggest

We use a verb + -ing after these expressions:

it's no good it's not worth it's no use
it's a waste of time can't stand can't bear can't help

We can use these verbs from the list above in reported speech:

admit deny regret suggest

START/ STOP,
FORGET/ REMEMBER
TRY



Exercises

A. Fill in the gaps with the gerund form of these verbs: watch, help, cook, work, read

1. We like dinner for our family.
2. I hate horror movies alone.
3. She enjoys with children.
4. My brother doesn't mind me.
5. We finished the book as homework.

B. Fill in the gaps with the infinitive form of these verbs: buy, play, drive, sell, study

1. I would like tennis tomorrow.
2. She wants Spanish next year.
3. They decided their house.
4. I learned when I was 17.
5. You need a ticket to go inside.

C. Fill in the gaps with the gerund or infinitive form of the verbs in brackets.

1. We need (study) a lot before the geography exam on Friday.
2. She would like (meet) her friend for lunch in a restaurant.
3. Sean and Elizabeth enjoy (go) for walks on the beach every day.
4. He wants (visit) the Eiffel Tower when he goes to France.
5. Frank and Sarah love (play) the guitar in the evenings.
6. They don't mind (wait) in the queue for ice cream.
7. We decided (eat) pasta with tomato sauce for dinner.
8. I hate (clean) the kitchen.
9. She learned (play) the piano when she was a child.
10. The children finished (tidy) their bedrooms.



D. Use your own ideas to complete the sentences below with gerunds and infinitives.

1. I like
2. I love
3. I would like
4. I don't mind
5. I want