

# GERUNDS & INFINITIVES



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## ► Gerunds and Infinitives:

- ❑ Gerunds and infinitives are verb forms that act as nouns.
- ❑ They can often be used in similar ways, the choice between them depends on the verb, the sentence structure, or the intended meaning.

## ▶ 1. Gerunds

- ▶ A gerund is the -ing form of a verb that functions as a noun.

Form: Verb + -ing

## ▶ Uses of Gerunds:

### 1. As the subject of a sentence

#### □ Example:

- Swimming is a good exercise.
- Reading improves your vocabulary.

### 2. As the object of a verb

#### □ Example:

- I enjoy traveling.
- She avoided answering the question.

### 3.After prepositions

- Example:

- ☐ He is good at dancing.
- ☐ They left without saying goodbye.

### 4.After certain verbs

- Some verbs are followed by gerunds (e.g., enjoy, avoid, suggest, practice).

- Example:

- ☐ We suggested going to the park.
- ☐ She dislikes waiting in long lines.

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## ▶ 2. Infinitives

- ▶ An infinitive is the base form of a verb, often preceded by "to."

Form: to + base verb

### ▶ Uses of Infinitives:

#### 1. As the subject of a sentence

☐ Example:

☐ To travel is my dream.

☐ To be kind is important.

#### 2. As the object of a verb

☐ Example:

☐ She wants to learn French.

☐ They decided to leave early.

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### 3. To show purpose or intention

❑ Example:

❑ He studies hard to pass the exam.

❑ They left early to catch the train.

### 4. After certain verbs

❑ Some verbs are followed by infinitives (e.g., decide, want, plan, hope).

❑ Example: I hope to visit Italy next year

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### ▶ 3. Verbs That Can Take Both Gerunds and Infinitives

- ▶ Some verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive, but the meaning may change.

#### ❑ With the Same Meaning:

- ❑ Example: I love reading. / I love to read.

(Both sentences mean the same.)

#### • With Different Meanings:

- ❑ Example:

- ❑ She stopped smoking. (She quit the habit of smoking.)

- ❑ She stopped to smoke. (She paused what she was doing to smoke.)



# Common Verbs Followed by Gerunds and Infinitives

| Verbs + Gerund   | Verbs + Infinitive |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Enjoy eating     | Want to eat        |
| Avoid running    | Plan to run        |
| Consider working | Decide to work     |
| Keep learning    | Agree to learn     |
| Finish writing   | Refuse to write    |



## ► Key Tips

1. After prepositions, always use a gerund.

□ Example: He's interested in learning Spanish.

2. Certain verbs have fixed patterns, so it's helpful to memorize which take gerunds, infinitives, or both.

3. Context matters for verbs like "stop," "remember," and "forget," where the choice between gerund and infinitive changes the meaning.

► **Complete the Sentences with Gerunds and Infinitives**

1. She tried \_\_\_\_\_ (explain) the situation, but they refused \_\_\_\_\_ (listen).
2. After \_\_\_\_\_ (argue) for hours, they finally agreed \_\_\_\_\_ (compromise).
3. Instead of \_\_\_\_\_ (complain) about the problem, he decided \_\_\_\_\_ (find) a solution.
4. By \_\_\_\_\_ (work) hard every day, he hopes \_\_\_\_\_ (achieve) his dream of becoming a professional athlete.
5. The teacher encouraged us \_\_\_\_\_ (participate) in the debate instead of just \_\_\_\_\_ (observe).
6. He remembered \_\_\_\_\_ (send) the email but forgot \_\_\_\_\_ (attach) the file.
7. We considered \_\_\_\_\_ (move) to a bigger city, but we couldn't afford \_\_\_\_\_ (rent) an apartment there.
8. I regret \_\_\_\_\_ (not take) more risks when I had the chance to \_\_\_\_\_ (travel).
9. She avoided \_\_\_\_\_ (answer) the question directly by \_\_\_\_\_ (change) the subject.
10. They agreed \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) at the park after \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) their homework.

**Combine the following pairs of sentences into one sentence using a gerund or infinitive.**

- 1. We avoided talking about the issue. We didn't want to upset anyone.**
- 2. He loves taking photographs. He hopes to open an exhibit someday.**
- 3. They tried to solve the puzzle. They kept running into problems.**
- 4. I enjoy learning languages. I'm excited to try speaking Spanish during my trip.**
- 5. She continued practicing the piano. She wanted to master the piece for her recital.**

**6. She dreams of becoming an artist. She practices sketching every day.**

**7. He wants to start a business. He needs to save enough money first.**

**8. I dislike waking up early. I know it's necessary for work.**

**9. They planned to go hiking. They forgot to check the weather.**

**10. She decided to travel abroad. She hopes to gain new experiences.**



► **Spot the Mistakes**

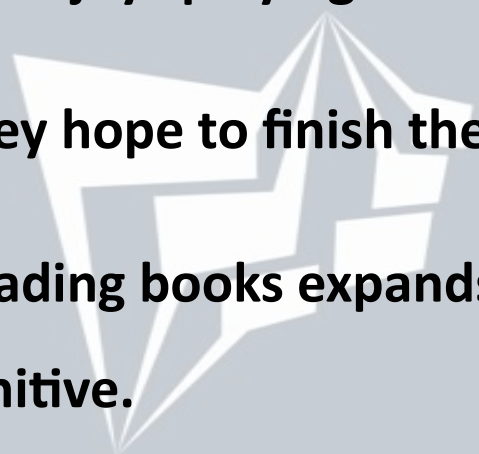
► **The following sentences have errors in the use of gerunds and infinitives. Rewrite them correctly.**

1. He suggested to take a break after lunch.
2. I prefer to drink coffee than tea.
3. She's looking forward to travel to Japan next year.
4. I didn't enjoy to play the piano when I was a child.
5. They avoided to talk about the problem during the meeting.



## ► Transformations:

1. "It's necessary to wake up early." → Rewrite using a gerund.
2. "He enjoys playing soccer." → Rewrite using an infinitive.
3. "They hope to finish the project soon." → Rewrite using a gerund.
4. "Reading books expands your knowledge." → Rewrite using an infinitive.
5. "She agreed to help him." → Rewrite with a different meaning using a gerund.



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► **Transformations:**

6. "It's helpful to practice mindfulness daily." → Rewrite using a gerund.

7. "We decided to postpone the trip." → Rewrite using a gerund.

8. "Writing letters used to be common." → Rewrite using an infinitive.

9. "He continued working despite the noise." → Rewrite with a different meaning using an infinitive.

10. "It's worth exploring the city by bike." → Rewrite using an infinitive.

- ▶ Creative Writing with Prompts
  - ▶ Use the given prompts to write sentences or short paragraphs, ensuring you use both gerunds and infinitives.
1. Describe a goal you want to achieve this year.  
Example: "I plan to improve my cooking skills by practicing new recipes every weekend."
  2. Explain a mistake you regret and what you learned from it.
  3. Talk about something you find challenging but enjoyable.

## ▶ Story Building

- ▶ Write a short story of 5-7 sentences using at least 5 gerunds and 5 infinitives.

### For example:

- ❑ *"Last summer, I decided to learn how to surf. I practiced balancing on the board every morning, but it was harder than I imagined. By spending hours in the water, I eventually managed to catch a wave. I avoided giving up, even when I felt frustrated. Now, I plan to keep surfing every summer—it's become my favorite hobby!"*