

Gerund and Infinitive

Hello English learners. Welcome to a new lesson. Today, we will learn about gerunds and infinitives. As you probably know, gerund is a verb form that ends in -ing (swimming, walking, running) while the infinitive is a base form of a verb. It can be used with **to** (also known as full infinitive) or without **to** (bare infinitive).

Gerund

The gerund is used:

1. as a noun. It can be a subject or an object of a sentence.

Running every morning is good for you.

Martha is afraid of **flying**.

2. after preference verbs: like, dislike, love, enjoy, prefer, hate, etc.:

Sean loves **swimming**.

We enjoy **walking**.

3. after go for physical activities:

We usually **go shopping** on Saturday.

It's so hot. Let's **go swimming**.

4. after certain verbs: avoid, admit, begin, confess to, deny, discuss, finish, keep, look forward to, mind, object to, recommend, regret, risk, spend, start, stop, suggest, etc.

I **avoid exercising** in the evening.

Sean **suggested taking** the train to Bath.

5. after certain phrases: it's (no) good, it's (no) use, it's worth, be used to, be busy, there is no point, can't stand, can't help, etc.

I **can't stand waiting** in queues.

It's worth seeing that museum.

6. after prepositions.

Her legs were tired **after walking** for so long.

She was afraid **of losing** her suitcase.

7. after see, hear, listen, watch to express an incomplete action.

I **saw** Michael **crossing** the street. (they didn't see the entire action, only a part of it)

While they were sailing, they **heard** the dolphins **singing**.

Infinitive

The full infinitive is used:

1. to express purpose.

She did some yoga **to relax**.

We **walked about to get warmer**.

2. After would love/like

I **would love to come** to the party but I'm too busy.

I'd like to visit Australia.

3. after adjectives (nice, good, pleased, happy, sorry, angry, etc.)

It's **nice to see** you again.

The children were **pleased to see** an elephant.

4. after nouns.

It took a lot of **courage to do** that.

Mark didn't have the **patience to do** the jigsaw puzzle.

5. after certain verbs: advise, agree, promise, offer, manage, hope, appear, want, see, mean, decide, plan, etc.

Simon **decided to study** languages instead of history.

We **plan to visit** some Greek islands on our holiday.

6. after question words (how, where, when, who, which, etc.) except **why**.

We have to decide **what to do**.

The tour guide instructed us **where to go**.

Note: She wondered why he disliked her.

7. After too and enough.

Helen's parents thought she was **too young to drive**.

Is the cord **long enough to reach** the socket?

The bare infinitive is used:

1. After modal verbs.

I wish I **could help** you.

You **must eat** your dinner.

2. After 'would rather' and 'had better'.

I **would rather stay** at home tonight.

You'd **better book** your ticket in advance.

3. After let, make, see, hear + object.

My dad **lets me use** his car at weekends.

Our mum **made us eat** our dinner.