Verb patterns: gerund or infinitive?
Goals

- Can provide a simple explanation of gerunds and their uses, with examples.

- Can accurately use gerunds and infinitives in a range of straightforward sentences.
Learning English is easy to do if you have the right teacher.
In this lesson you are going to learn when to use **gerunds** and **infinitives** in sentences.

I really **want to learn** this.
What is a gerund?

- A **gerund** is a **verb** which ends in **-ing** and which functions as a **noun**.

Learning English is hard.
Gerunds can function as the **subject** of a sentence.

Look at the examples below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watching a film</td>
<td>is a relaxing way to spend time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading in English</td>
<td>is a good way to improve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running</td>
<td>is good for your health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating junk food</td>
<td>is bad for you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working hard</td>
<td>gives you an appetite.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to use gerunds

- We use **gerunds** after **certain verbs**.
- Below are some of the **verbs** which are **followed by a gerund**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I really enjoy cooking.</th>
<th>He keeps telling me boring stories about his mother.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I avoid eating sprouts if I can.</td>
<td>I miss eating English chocolate when I’m abroad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She finished working hours ago.</td>
<td>I don’t mind working in the evening if I can sleep late in the morning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My son practises playing the guitar for hours every night.</td>
<td>They recommended taking a taxi from the airport.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gerunds

- We use a **gerund** after a **preposition**. It can be used to emphasise action or experience.

I dream **about living** in a cabin in the woods. One day!

I’m really good **at cooking**. One day, I will be a celebrity chef.
Use of gerunds

- We also use a **gerund after verbs** of the **senses**.
- Look at the examples below. Using the **gerund** implies we see **only part of the action**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I heard him talking to the neighbour.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I saw him chasing the cat across the yard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I watched him playing football for a while.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We heard her shouting at her children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I noticed John stealing some sweets from the shop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of gerunds

Here you have some more examples of **gerunds** in sentences.

- **Eating** too many biscuits will make you feel ill.
- I’m looking forward to **seeing** you at the weekend.
- They **avoided staying** in the centre of town.
- She recently **finished studying** abroad.
Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with an appropriate verb. Change it into the correct form.

1. ___________ goodbye to someone for a long time is always difficult.
2. I am thinking about ___________ to Spain for my holidays in August.
3. I try to avoid ___________ at rush hour.
4. I don’t mind ___________ English on the phone if the person talks slowly.
5. ___________ weights is a good way to gain muscle.
Fill in the gaps

Fill in the first gap with one of the verbs on the right. Put the verbs in brackets into the second gap.

1. I ___________ my mother ___________ (shout) at the dog for eating her sausages.
2. I ___________ my boyfriend ___________ (kiss) another girl – I was devastated!
3. I ___________ my dog ___________ (chew) my dad’s slippers. I didn’t stop him because I thought it was funny.
4. I ___________ my brother ___________ (steal) a cookie from the jar while my mum wasn’t looking, but I ignored him.
Finish the sentences

Finish these sentences in your own words.

1. I’m looking forward to...
2. I try to avoid...
3. Eating ____________ is bad for my health.
4. I enjoy ____________ at the weekends.
5. ____________ is a relaxing way to spend time.
What is an infinitive?

- An infinitive is the **form of the verb** you find in the **dictionary without any changes**.
- The infinitive can be **with or without to**. In the following pages, we are talking about the **infinitive with to**.

It is **difficult to turn** pages with these paws.
We use an **infinitive** after most **adjectives**.

Look at the examples below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>It is easy to forget that he is not from England.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is difficult to learn all the grammar rules in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is nice to come home to a hot meal after work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was really happy to see her again.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Infinitives

- We use the **infinitive** after certain **verbs**.
- Look at the examples below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He <strong>learnt to speak</strong> English by himself.</th>
<th>I <strong>managed to convince</strong> him to come with me.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I <strong>hope to see</strong> John next month.</td>
<td>He <strong>refused to say</strong> sorry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James <strong>pretended to be</strong> ill so he could stay at home.</td>
<td>Alex <strong>agreed not to tell</strong> anyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I <strong>want to buy</strong> a new car this month.</td>
<td>I <strong>need to buy</strong> some food for dinner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Infinitives

- We use the **infinitive** after **nouns or pronouns** referring to a **person**.
- Look at the examples below.

- I **convinced him to help** me.
- I never **expected her to become** a doctor.
- I **told Carol to come** here earlier.
- I **wanted James to change** his job.
Infinitives

- We also use an *infinitive* to *show purpose* or the *results* of an action or event.

Josh *went to find* a new wife. He was fed up of being alone.

I *joined Lingoda to learn* English.
Like, love, hate, and prefer

- *Like, love, hate*, and *prefer* can all be followed by a **gerund** or an **infinitive**.
- The **gerund** emphasises the **experience**, whereas the **infinitive** emphasises the **result**.

I hate cooking. I always burn everything, even when I follow the instructions!
Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the verbs on the right and then complete the sentences so they are true for you.

1. I ____________ to be ill when I was a child when...
2. I am ____________ English to...
3. I ____________ to ____________ by myself.
4. The last time I ____________ someone to help me was...
5. I ____________ to buy a new ____________ soon.
6. When I was younger, I often ____________ to...
Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

1. I find it easy to...
2. It is difficult for me to...
3. I’m always pleased to...
4. I was surprised to...
5. After a long day at work it is nice to...
Use the verbs below to talk about yourself.

- I love...
- I hate...
- I don’t like...
- I like...
Infinitives without to

- We use infinitives without to after modal verbs.

I must finish my homework before I go out tonight.

She can sing beautifully, but she doesn’t realise it.

He should go to the doctor – he looks terrible.

She might come later if she has time.
Infinitives without to

- We use infinitives without to with the verbs make, let, and sometimes help.
- There is also an object between the verb and infinitive.

- My mum made me clean my room before I could go out.
- My dad let me eat ice cream before dinner.
- Tom helped me do my homework.
Infinitives without to

- We also use **infinitives without to after verbs** of the **senses**.
- Look at the examples below. Using the **infinitive implies** we see the **whole action**.

| I heard him walk downstairs. | ![Image of a person yelling] |
| I saw him chase the cat across the garden. |
| I watched him play football. |
| We heard her shout. |
| I noticed John steal some apples from the tree. |
Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

1. My dad made me to learn Spanish when I was younger because he loved going to Spain on holiday.
2. My mum never let me eating sweets because she said they were bad for my teeth.
3. I heard her to scream when she saw the robber.
4. We must to go somewhere abroad this year – the weather has been terrible here.
5. John helped me cutting the grass in my garden.
Finish the sentences

Finish the sentences with your own ideas.

1. Tomorrow I must...

2. I think everyone should ____________ before they turn 30.

3. I can ____________ now, but I couldn’t when I was a child.
Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps either with the verb provided or with your own verb in the correct form. Complete the sentences

1. An activity I prefer ____________ (do) on my own is...
2. My parents never let me ____________ when I was a child.
3. I’m really looking forward to ____________ next month.
4. I really miss ____________ when I am abroad for a long time.
5. I hope ____________ (speak) English perfectly by the time I am ____________.
6. I really enjoy ____________ (listen) to ____________ music when I want to relax.
7. I am saving money ____________ (buy) a new...
8. ____________ (eat) ____________ is one of the greatest pleasures in life.
Tell the class...

...something you need to buy today.

...something you’re bad at but want to practise.

...a person you avoid talking to if you can.

...an activity you might do at the weekend.
Write four sentences about yourself with the verbs below.

2 should be true, and two should be false.

Your classmates have to guess which.

You’re lying!

I really enjoy ironing my clothes.

make (sb. do sth.)

enjoy

dream about

pretend
Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.
Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson. What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?

If you have time, go over the most difficult slides again.
1. doing/to do, 5. to speak, 6. listening, 7. to buy, 8. eating
Activity p. 28

Activity p. 12

1. pretended, 2. learning, 3. learnt, 4. convinced, 5. want, 6. refused
Activity p. 20

1. made me learn, 2. let me eat, 3. heard her scream, 4. must go, 5. helped me cut
Activity p. 26

1. doing/to do, 5. to speak, 6. listening, 7. to buy, 8. eating
Activity p. 11
Homework
1. Alex really enjoys ________ (eat) in restaurants at the weekend.
2. Children should ________ (be) polite to their teachers.
3. Shop assistants are usually happy ________ (help) customers.
4. Harry helped his brother ________ (cut) the grass because he liked gardening.
5. Ellen was really good at ________ (cook).
Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

1. I really don’t enjoy...

2. I’m looking forward to...

3. I know I should ____________ this month.

4. I’m learning English to...

5. I love...
Homework answer key

1. eating  2. be  3. to help  4. cut  5. cooking

Activity P. 35
About this material

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