

Infinitives: Overview of Patterns

Infinitive= to + verb.

Gerund= verb + *-ing*

Infinitives and **gerunds** are formed from verbs. They are *used like nouns*. Both can have the following functions in a sentence. Sometimes either an infinitive or a gerund can be used, but often we must use one form rather than the other. Here are some examples of both forms.

- as the subject of a sentence
Infinitive: *To graduate from university takes a lot of work.*
 = *It takes a lot of work to graduate from university.*
Gerund: *Graduating from university takes a lot of work.*

- as the object of a verb
Infinitive: *I want to watch TV.*
We like to swim.
Gerund: *He finished studying at midnight.*
We like swimming.

- as noun and adjective complements
Infinitive: *July is a good month to visit Canada.*
It's difficult to learn a new language.
Gerund: *She had a hard time completing this course.*
Some people are nervous driving in the snow.

In this lesson we will focus on **infinitives as the objects of verbs**. **Infinitives** do not have a tense, but they generally refer to the possibility of something happening in the future. (*I want to watch a movie tonight.*) Some verbs can be followed by either infinitives or gerunds, while other verbs must be followed by infinitives (not gerunds).

Common Verbs Followed by Infinitives

agree	decide	intend	plan	refuse
appear	expect	need	pretend	seem
ask	hope	offer	promise	want

Common Verbs Followed by Infinitives or Gerunds

begin	hate	prefer
continue	like	start
	love	

Complete the following sentences using infinitives.

Example: He expects to graduate from college next June.

1. I **asked** my roommate _____.
2. My boss **refused** _____.
3. Our family **plans** _____.
4. The child **pretended** _____.
5. Our teacher **promises** _____.
6. My friends and I **decided** _____.
7. The waiter **offered** _____.
8. Next weekend, I **want** _____.
9. The doctor said Janet **needs** _____.
10. My parents **agreed** _____.
11. Many young people **hope** _____.
12. Their dog **seems** _____.