

Gerunds: Overview of Patterns

Gerund= verb + *-ing*

Infinitive= *to* + verb.

As you may have seen in the lesson on **Infinitives**, **gerunds** and **infinitives** are both formed from verbs. They are both *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
Gerund: *Canoeing is fun but you need strong arms.*
Infinitive: *To canoe is fun but you need strong arms.* (This is grammatically correct but sounds awkward, so the infinitive as subject is rarely used.)
- as the object of a verb
Gerund: *We enjoyed canoeing in Algonquin Park.*
Infinitive: *We want to canoe in Algonquin Park.*
- as noun and adjective complements
Gerund: *We had a difficult time finding the answer.*
Most Canadians are confident traveling by car.
Infinitive: *Winter is a good time to take a vacation.*
It's fun to try new kinds of food.
- as objects of prepositions
Gerund: *He is afraid of flying.*
She is interested in sky diving.

In this lesson we will focus on **gerunds as the subject and objects of verbs**. **Gerunds** do not have a tense, but they generally refer to events in the present or the past. (*I enjoy reading historical novels. I stopped smoking two years ago.*) Some verbs can be followed by either infinitives or gerunds, while other verbs must be followed by gerunds (not infinitives).

Common Verbs Followed by Gerunds

imagine	finish	practice	admit	dislike
miss	discuss	quit	appreciate	don't mind
avoid	recommend	recall	delay	suggest

Common Verbs Followed by Gerunds or Infinitives

begin	hate	prefer	*remember
continue	like	start	*forget
	love		*stop

*can be followed by gerunds or infinitives, but the meaning changes

Complete the following sentences using a GERUND.

Example: *I thoroughly enjoy cooking Japanese food.*

1. My teacher recommended _____.
2. You really should quit _____.
3. In order to learn English faster, I would suggest _____.
4. Please remember _____.
5. I can't imagine _____.
6. We need to avoid _____.
7. By Friday, we must finish _____.
8. The thief admitted _____.
9. The bride and groom appreciated _____.
10. I left Japan ten years ago. I really miss _____.
11. When I travel by plane I prefer _____.
12. A skier must practice _____.
13. At our business meeting we need to discuss _____.
14. At the sound of the buzzer please begin _____.
15. The employee said he didn't mind _____.
16. I don't recall _____.
17. Because of the technical problem, the airline has to delay _____.
18. While I am gone, please continue _____.

19. The children hate _____.
20. Let's go to an Italian restaurant. I love _____.

Fill in the blanks with either the GERUND or INFINITIVE form of the verb.

1. Health experts recommend _____ (eat) fruit and vegetables every day.
2. Judy wants _____ (buy) a new car.
3. Allison has decided _____ (take) a cooking class.
4. After we finish _____ (wash) the dishes, let's go to a movie.
5. Pete recently quit _____ (smoke).
6. I promised _____ (help) my mother cook dinner tonight.
7. We hope _____ (take) a nice vacation this summer.
8. The teacher seems _____ (be) sick today.
9. You need _____ (pay) your rent on time each month.
10. My brother refused _____ (lend) me \$20.
11. I hate _____ (do) laundry.
12. It started _____ (rain) this morning.
13. I really miss _____ (eat) my mother's cooking.
14. My friend suggested _____ (go) camping next weekend.
15. My neighbour offered _____ (feed) my cat while I'm away.