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| **Gerunds and Infinitives: Overview** | | | |
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| **FORM:** | Infinitive | *to* + verb |  |
| Gerund | verb*ing* |
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| **USE** | Infinitives and gerunds function like nouns and noun phrases. Depending on their position in the sentence, they can be used as **subjects** (*who* or *what* does the action)  Swimming is fun. (subject)  It is fun to swim. (subject delayed by the expletive “it is”)  When used as **objects** (*what* receives the action), some verbs always take the infinitive, others take the gerund, while a small group of verbs can take either.  I *considered* going to the movie. I *considered* visiting them.  I *wanted* to go to the movie. I *wanted* to visit them.  I *preferred* to go to the movie.  I *preferred* going to the movie.  Gerunds are always used after prepositions, as **prepositional objects**.  I was thinking *about* going to the movie.  I am looking forward *to* going to the movie.  Infinitives are used in **adverbial phrases of purpose**.  I came here *to study English.* (*Why* did you come here?)  I stopped *to get some gas.* (*Why* did you stop?) | | |
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