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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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