




gerund vs. infinitive

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- When one verb follows another, the first verb determines the form of the second. We can use **infinitive with or without to**, or the **gerund**.

# infinitive without “to”

☀ We use it after some perception verbs such as HEAR, FEEL, or SEE and the verbs LET and MAKE:

☀ *I saw you leave home.*

☀ *He made me stay at home.*

# infinitive without “to”

☀ **Would rather / had better:**

☀ *I'd better **go** back to work (I'd better **not go**)*

☀ *He'd rather **come** with me. (He'd rather **not come** with me)*

# gerunds

☀ They can be the **subject** of a sentence:

☀ *Dancing is not one of my favourite activities.*

# gerunds

☀ They can be the **object** of a sentence:

☀ *I love sunbathing.*

# gerunds

☀ They are used after  
prepositions:

☀ *He's very fond of skiing.*

# gerunds

They can be used after certain verbs phrasal verbs or expressions:

☀ *Spend, can't help, can't stand, can't face, can't resist, feel like, don't mind, would mind, be/get used to, It's no use, keep on, carry on, admit, avoid, deny, fancy, imagine, miss, postpone, practise, suggest...*



# gerunds

- ☀ *I can't help **falling** in love with you.*
- ☀ *I don't feel like **dancing**.*
- ☀ *I'll be looking forward to **seeing** you again.*

# infinitives

☀ They can be used as **subject** of a sentence when talking about a specific fact:

☀ *To smoke now would be rude.*

☀ *To continue with this task won't be a good idea.*

# infinitives

- ☀ They are used after certain verbs and expressions:
  - ☀ *Afford, agree, appear, seem, manage, choose, decide, promise, expect, learn, plan, refuse, hope, offer, tend, fail, be able to, can't wait to, teach, tend, threaten, would like etc.*

# infinitives

☀ They are used after certain verbs:

☀ *I can't afford to go by plane.*

☀ *He managed to finish the task.*

☀ *He seems to be worried by something.*

## infinitives

☀ They are used after certain adjectives and adverbs:

☀ *Busy, happy, ready, tired, slowly, fast, low, high*

☀ *He's too tired **to come** with us.*

# infinitive of purpose

☀ It is used to say the purpose/aim of something:

☀ *He came to give us some news.*

☀ *Use this knife to open the envelope.*

like, prefer, enjoy, hate



When we talk about hobbies and interests we use the gerund: *I enjoy visiting my friends a lot.*



When we talk about habits, we use the infinitive: *I like to walk an hour a day.*

# verbs followed by infinitive /gerund without change of meaning

☀ *Begin, propose, forbid, intend,  
start:*

☀ *I'm going to start **running** right  
now.*

☀ *I'm going to start **to run** right  
now.*



verbs followed by infinitive  
/gerund with change of  
meaning

☀ *Stop, remember, forget,  
regret*

# stop

☀ To leave a habit: *You should **stop smoking** if you want to be healthier:*

☀ To interrupt an action to do another one: *Let's **stop to have** a coffee.*

# REMEMBER

☀ GERUND: It refers to something done in the past: *I don't remember reading that book*

☀ INFINITIVE: *Remember to collect the kids from school.*

# REGRET

☀ GERUND: To regret something from the past: *I regret having spoken like that to him.*

☀ INFINITIVE: to give bad news: *I regret to say that ...*

# forget

- ☀ GERUND: We use it with things we forgot in the past: *I forgot having read that book.* ( I read it, but forgot I had).
- ☀ INFINITIVE: *I forgot to close the windows* (I didn't close them).

# try

- ☀ GERUND: Try doing something that can help solve a problem: *Try using my keys, if you can't open the door.*
- ☀ INFINITIVE: To attempt to do something: *I'm trying to open the window, but I can't.*

## go on

☀ GERUND: To continue doing something: *Go on **painting**, you'll finish soon.*

☀ INFINITIVE: To do the next thing: *He arrived and went on **to prepare** dinner.*

# need

- ☀ GERUND: It means the same as “need to be...”: *My car needs **washing*** (needs to be washed).
- ☀ INFINITIVE: It’s used to say that we must do something: *I need **to wash** my car.*