

# GERUNDS vs INFINITIVES – COMPLETE GUIDE (2º Bachillerato)

**1. Forms:** Gerund: verb + -ing (playing). Infinitive: to + verb (to play).

**2. Verbs + Gerund (-ing):** enjoy, avoid, mind, suggest, finish, keep, consider, imagine, admit, deny, miss, risk.

Ex: I enjoy reading.

**3. Verbs + Infinitive (to + verb):** want, would like, need, decide, plan, hope, expect, learn, agree, promise, refuse, offer, manage.

Ex: I want to study.

**4. Verbs that can take BOTH (important nuance):** like, love, hate, prefer, start, begin, continue.

→ Gerund = general enjoyment: I love reading.

→ Infinitive = more specific or occasional: I love to read before bed.

(Difference is small and often interchangeable.)

**5. Meaning changes: stop:** stop doing (finish) / stop to do (pause).

**remember/forget:** doing (past memory) / to do (obligation).

**try:** doing (experiment) / to do (effort).

**regret:** doing (past regret) / to do (formal news).

**6. After prepositions → ALWAYS -ing:** in, on, at, for, about, of, without, before, after.

Ex: interested in learning.

**7. Expressions + Gerund:** It's worth, It's no use, Can't help, Be used to.

Ex: I'm used to getting up early.

**8. Expressions + Infinitive:** It's + adjective + to; too/enough.

Ex: It's important to study; too tired to work.

**9. Purpose → Infinitive:** Use to explain why: I went to the shop to buy bread.

**10. Subject of sentence:** Gerund (common): Swimming is fun.

Infinitive (formal): To swim is fun.

**11. Key student rule:** Preposition → -ing.

Verb patterns → memorise.

Purpose → to + verb.

Some verbs change meaning → be careful.

## Exam Traps ■■: • suggest + -ing (NOT suggest to do)

- avoid + -ing
- want + to (NOT want doing in this level)
- be used to + -ing vs used to + infinitive
- after prepositions ALWAYS -ing
- too/enough + infinitive

## Transformations Guide: • It's + adj + to → It is important to study.

- too...to → too tired to work
- enough → old enough to drive
- It takes + time → It took me 2 hours to finish
- suggest → suggest + -ing
- avoid → avoid + -ing
- interested in → + -ing
- apologise for → + -ing
- refuse/decide/hope → + to + verb