

1 GERUNDS

A GERUND is a verb in its "ing" form (the present participle); for example, **raining, dancing, laughing, thinking, creating, running**, and so on.

By definition, they are activities . either physical or mental.

These words function as NOUNS in a sentence:

The subject of the verb: **Swimming is** a lot of fun and good exercise.

The object of the verb: I really **like swimming**.

The object of a preposition: I am looking forward **to swimming** in the ocean.

1.1 GERUNDS AS THE SUBJECT OF THE SENTENCE

Any activity that can be expressed with the "ing" form of a verb can be the subject of a sentence.

All gerunds can be the subject of a sentence.

Breathing is necessary.

Driving a car requires good vision.

Helping other people feels good.

1.2 GERUNDS AS THE OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION

Prepositions (**for, with, about, &**) must be followed by an object.

The object can be a noun or a gerund (a verb acting as a noun).

I am tired **of waking up** too early.

I look forward **to meeting** your friend.

I am interested **in learning** baseball.

She is responsible **for implementing** new policy.

1.2.1 Verb + Preposition

Here are some **verbs** plus a **preposition** followed by a **gerund**:

to **complain about** _____ing

to **insist on** _____ing

to **participate in** _____ing

to **apologize for** _____ing

to **object to** _____ing

to **look forward to** _____ing

to **think of** _____ing

to **win by** _____ing

to **take part in** _____ing

1.2.2 Verb + Object + Preposition

Here are some **verbs** plus an **object** plus a **preposition** followed by a **gerund**:

to **have difficulty in** _____ing

to **take advantage of** _____ing

to **have a good reason for** _____ing

to **prevent someone from** _____ing

to **keep someone from** _____ing

to **stop someone from** _____ing

to **thank someone for** _____ing

to blame someone for _____ing
to accuse someone of _____ing
to charge someone with _____ing
to fine someone for _____ing

1.2.3 To Be + Adjective + Preposition

Here are some combinations of the verb "to be" plus an **adjective** plus a **preposition** followed by a **gerund**:

to be accustomed to _____ing
to be interested in _____ing
to be excited about _____ing
to be capable of _____ing
to be responsible for _____ing
to be used to _____ing
to be tired of _____ing
to be bored with _____ing
to be good for _____ing
to be good at _____ing
to be bad at _____ing
to be guilty of _____ing

1.2.4 To Be + Noun + Preposition

Here are some combinations of the verb "to be" plus an **object** plus a **preposition** followed by a **gerund**:

to be a victim of _____ing
to be an advocate of _____ing
to be a believer in _____ing
to be a supporter of _____ing
to be a critic of _____ing

1.3 GERUNDS AS THE OBJECT OF A VERB

When it comes to gerunds as the object of a verb, not all verbs are equal.

That is, some verbs can take a gerund as their objects, but other verbs cannot.

(Some verbs can take infinitives as their objects. Some verbs never take an object at all.)

These differences can only be learned, as individual vocabulary items.

1.3.1 Verb + Gerund:

Here are some **verbs** that are followed by a **gerund**.

(These verbs can be followed by any gerund. The gerunds used in these sentences are only examples.)

I **admit** losing the combination to the safe.
I **advise** finding a good lawyer.
I don't **anticipate** waiting very much longer.
I **appreciate** hearing a good joke.
I **avoid** flying as much as I can.
Would you **consider** selling your share of the company?
We will **delay** signing an agreement.
I **deny** saying that.
We must **discuss** hiring more people.
I **dislike** eating alone.

I **enjoy** talking with new people.
I **fear** losing his confidence.
When I **finish** typing this, I'll help you.
I **gave up** explaining my position to them.
I often **go** dancing.
I can't **help** thinking that we could have done better.
I can't **imagine** spending that much money.
Business trips **involve** waiting in airports and staying in hotels.
They **keep** saying that, but they don't do anything about it.
Did I **mention** seeing him yesterday?
I don't **mind** working on the weekend.
I will **miss** seeing you around.
They **postponed** starting construction until next year.
You should **practice** using set phrases.
I **quit** smoking six years ago.
I **recall** meeting him a long time ago.
I don't **recollect** being there.
I **recommend** having the New York steak.
I **resent** having to sign in each morning.
I couldn't **resist** telling them.
We should not **risk** losing their trust.
I hope they **stop** making so much noise so I can get some sleep.
He **suggested** starting my own agency.
They won't **tolerate** trading insider information.

2 INFINITIVES

An infinitive may exist with or without the word "to".
For example, following modal verbs (can, may, must, ...).
Infinitives with the word "to" can function as either the SUBJECT or the OBJECT of a verb.

2.1 INFINITIVES AS THE SUBJECT OF THE SENTENCE

To read a good book is my favorite form of relaxation.
To win means everything to him.
To speak a foreign language well requires practice.

2.2 INFINITIVES AS THE OBJECT OF THE VERB

Most people **like to win**. I don't **want to go**.
We don't **need to fight** like this.

2.2.1 Verb + Infinitive

Here are some **verbs** that are followed by an infinitive.
(These verbs can be followed by any infinitive. The infinitives used in these sentences are only examples.)

We can't **afford to remain** outside the market.
Should we **agree to buy** from them?
It **appears to be** a mistake.
I will **arrange to talk** with them as soon as possible.

I **asked to see** the manager about it.
 I **beg to differ** with you, sir.
 Would you **care to try** a California wine?
 They **claim to make** the best potato chips in the world.
 We will never **consent to allow** your name to be put on our product.
 Finally, I **decided to do** it myself.
 I **demand to know** who is responsible for this!
 He **deserves to get** a promotion.
 She **expects to hire** an apprentice.
 Do not **fail to let** us know your decision.
 If you have trouble, don't **hesitate to call** us for help.
 We **hope to begin** by next week.
 I **intend to go** home early.
 He **learned to speak** English as a child.
 You **managed to overlook** something.
 Did you **mean to put** my report in the waste basket?
 I **need to talk** to an expert.
 They **offered to buy** the rest from us.
 We **plan to expand** our product range.
 Are you **prepared to explain** this disaster?
 I don't **pretend to know** all the answers.
 I **promise to do** my best.
 He **refuses to answer** my calls.
 He **seems to be** the one who is in charge.
 We **had to struggle** to open the window.
 Do you **swear to keep** this a secret?
 They **threatened to sue** us if we didn't pay their fee.
 No one **volunteered to clean up** after the picnic.
 I cannot **wait to see** the expression on his face when he hears the news.
 I **want to find** the right person for this job.
 I do not **wish to be** a part of your scheme.

2.2.2 Verb + Pronoun/Noun + Infinitive

Here are some **verbs** plus an **indirect object** followed by an **infinitive**.
 (These verbs can be followed by any infinitive. The infinitives used in these sentences are only examples.)

I would **advise you to say** nothing about this.
 Will you **allow me to use** your telephone?
 She **asked me to help** her with her car.
 He **begged me to let** him come along.
 The weather **caused us to take** a later flight.
 He **challenged me to find** an error in his figures.
 We must **convince them to investigate** the situation.
 I **dare you to tell** him what you told me.
 I **encouraged her to continue** with the task.
 He **expects you to finish** on time.
 I **forbid you to use** that tone of voice with me.
 They **forced him to reveal** his source.
 We should **hire someone to run** our photocopying operation.
 I **instructed them to wait** for us here.
 I **invited John to take part** in our discussion.
 I **need you to tell** me what is going on here.
 My boss **ordered me to go** to London last week.
 We **permitted them to talk** to our client.

He **persuaded her** to listen to his problem.
He **reminded me** to bring an umbrella.
This situation **requires us** to be very cautious.
The experience **taught me** to buckle my seat belt.
He **told me** to take two aspirins and go to bed.
She **urged me** to take the job.
I **want you** to wash my car.
He **warned me** not to drive too fast around here.

3 GERUNDS OR INFINITIVES?

Some verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive.
Sometimes, there is no difference in meaning.
Sometimes there is.

3.1 VERB + INFINITIVE = VERB + GERUND

These verbs can be followed by either an infinitive or a gerund, with NO DIFFERENCE IN MEANING.

He began <u>to shout</u> .	=	He began <u>shouting</u> .
He started <u>to shout</u> .		He started <u>shouting</u> .
He continued <u>to shout</u> .	=	He continued <u>shouting</u> .
I like <u>to read</u> .		I like <u>reading</u> .
I love <u>to read</u> .	=	I love <u>reading</u> .
I prefer <u>to read</u> .	=	I prefer <u>reading</u> .
I hate <u>to wait</u> .	=	I hate <u>waiting</u> .
I can't stand <u>to wait</u> .	=	I can't stand <u>waiting</u> .
I can't bear <u>to wait</u> .	=	I can't bear <u>waiting</u> .
	=	
	=	

3.2 VERB + INFINITIVE

Some **verbs** can be followed by either an infinitive or a gerund, but THEIR MEANINGS ARE NOT THE SAME:

I will remember <u>to call</u> her. (I will be sure to call her in the future.)	≠	I remember <u>calling</u> her. (I have the memory of calling her in the past.)
I will not forget <u>to meet</u> him. (I will be sure to meet him in the future.)	≠	I will never forget <u>meeting</u> them. (I will not lose the memory of meeting them.)
I regret <u>to say</u> he is not here. (I am sorry I must tell you he is not here.)	≠	I regret <u>saying</u> it. (I am sorry I said it.)
I will try <u>to ring</u> the bell. (I will see if it is possible to ring the bell.)	≠	I will try <u>ringing</u> the bell. (I will ring the bell to see if it will help the situation.)
I stopped <u>to smoke</u> at ten o. clock. (I interrupted an activity and had a cigarette.)	≠	I stopped <u>smoking</u> a year ago. (I ended my cigarette habit.)