

Gerunds and Infinitives

Gerunds

Summary: Gerunds allow verbs to function as nouns

- After prepositions
 - He secured a passing grade **by studying** hard.
 - I am uncertain on the revenue brought **by selling** this product.
 - **Instead of sleeping**, maybe you should try to get your work done.
 - I disagree **with reducing** funding for our space club.
 - I can improve my English through **practising** a lot.
- As subjects (Nouns) of a phrase
 - **Swimming** can help to train your lung capacity
c.f. **Books** can help to improve your literacy
 - If **completing** the project can earn me money, then I will finish it quickly.
c.f. If **cars** can save me commuting time, then I will buy one.
- After *certain* verbs
 - I like eating bananas.

To-infinitives

- After certain verbs (usually indicating more of an **objective**)
You can see sometimes we can put a subject between the verb and our to-infinitive to provide more information. Note that we can't do this with a gerund!
 - I like to play video games
 - He worked at the store **to earn money**
 - I play games **to reduce** pressure
- To indicate an objective, we can do so as follows:
(Subject) + (action) + to + (objective)
e.g. I **cook** to **avoid eating at the school canteen**.
e.g. I **wore** a jacket to **stay** warm.
(action)(objective verb: **avoid/stay**)
(What are we avoiding? Eating at the school canteen – Noun phrase)
- After **adjectives**
 - It is **impossible** to **make** a comeback with this scoreline...
 - This test is notoriously **tricky** to **achieve** a perfect score in.
 - The shortcut is **fantastic** to **make** comebacks.

Bare infinitives

Base form of the verb without 'to', e.g. 'get', 'go', 'come', 'feed'

- After modal verbs (!!!) e.g. could, can, will, should
 - I could **come** to the party on Friday
 - You should **water** the plants every day.
- After the verbs 'do', 'make', 'let'
 - I **do like** this book.
 - The examination conventions **made us turn off** our phones before the exams.
- After verbs of sense/perception (e.g. see, watch)
 - I watched birds **fly** in the sky
- After 'why' in questions
 - Why **leave** us when we are about to finish the project?
 - Why not **move** away from your old house?
 - Why **travel** to the warzone?

Exercises on to-infinitives / gerunds / bare infinitives

Welcome back to my blog. It has been quite a while since posting(post) my last update. Regrettably, it was because I was too busy _____(spend) time writing up long articles. This time however, I want _____(share) my experience with _____(instruct) my father on how to use the computer.

_____ (teach) my dad how to use a computer has been quite an adventure. I first needed **to** _____ (convince) him that he can actually master _____ (use) the computer. Then, I taught him how to press the power button on the side of the desktop to _____ (power) on the computer.

_____ (get) used to using a mouse took him a good while. To master these skills, we practiced _____ (move) the cursor and _____ (select) folders. Next, I showed him how he can open a web browser _____ (surf) the Internet. It was entertaining **to** _____ (watch) him discover the internet's vastness. *Watching him discover then Internet's vastness was entertaining.*

_____ (create) an email account came next. He tried _____ (type) in the website for the email service but he could not find the '.' symbol. Eventually, we reached the site, allowing us to register(register) an email account. There were moments when he struggled _____ (follow) instructions, but it was great to watch him _____ (learn) more about the computer.

Then, I taught him more about _____ (download) software. To keep things simple, I chose user-friendly programs. Most importantly, however, I spent lots of time _____ (teach) him how and

why he should _____ (avoid) phishing links on the internet. This is done **to make** sure our computer doesn't get infected with viruses.

Throughout this journey, I enjoyed _____ (encourage) him every time we reached a milestone. At the end, I was pleasantly surprised at how quickly he could _____ (grasp) the basics. Although there were hurdles, _____ (share) these moments strengthened our bond. If you are reading this, why not _____ (give) your elder at home a shot at this?

I was too busy **to spend** time writing up long articles.

→ I had too many other things going on, so that I have little time for writing.

I was too busy **spending** time writing up long articles.

→ Writing up long articles takes up a lot of my time.

I stopped to chat with my old friend.

→ I stopped whatever I was doing **to chat with my old friend**.

I stopped chatting with my old friend.

→ I am no longer in a chat with my old friend. (The chat has completed)

He tried typing out a document.

→ He actually typed out a document (The task was not hard for the subject)

He tried to type out a document.

→ He made an attempt, but **did not succeed** in his task (The task was too hard for the subject)

Additional vocab items:

- Surf (the internet) – Very useful when writing about the Internet
- Vast – Very big
 - The library contains a vast collection of books.
- Register – 注册
- User-friendly – Easy for users to learn how to use
- Encourage – 鼓励
- Bustling – 繁华

The firemen managed to put out the fire very quickly.

She regrets (v) calling you lazy.

She regretted (v) saying that you were lazy.

She felt regretful (adj) for saying that you were lazy.