

Infinitives and gerunds

Simple infinitives and gerunds

Bare infinitives :

We use bare infinitives (base form of the verb) after modals (1), after perception verbs such as hear and see with objects (2) and after the verbs let and make with objects (3).

- 1- I can't stay long / What will we do if they tell us we must pay more? / (NOT we must to pay more?).
- 2- I didn't hear Tom come in / I've never seen anyone eat as much as your friend can.
- 3- Please make her stop / They won't let us leave (NOT they won't let us to leave).

After the verb help , we can use an infinitive with or without to : Annie helped me (to) clean up.

Gerunds :

We can use gerunds (verb + -ing) and negative gerunds (not + verb+ -ing) after verbs and prepositions (4) . We can also use gerunds as subjects (5) .

- 4- I don't mind waiting / Paul enjoys not having a job . She watches TV instead of working .
- 5- Studying makes me sleepy / My doctor says that swimming is the best kind of exercise.

Gerunds are also called “-ing forms” . They are often used after No in signs : No parking .

We can use gerunds in clauses with objects , prepositional phrases and adverbs (6) . Before gerunds ,we can use nouns (Tom) or object pronouns (them) ,but possessive nouns and determiners (Tom's their) can also be used , typically in formal situations (7) .

- 6- He denied taking the money / They recommend washing silk shirts gently in cold water.
- 7- I can't recall Tom/ Tom's visiting us / We listened to them / their arguing all night.

Gerunds or present participle?

We use gerunds like nouns ,which can be subjects or objects (8) . We usually use present participles as verbs with different forms of be (9) . We use present participles ,not gerunds , in reduced versions of relative clauses or adverbial clauses (10) .

- 8- Talking and action are two quite different things / Have they finished (the) cleaning yet?
- 9- We were talking about money / I have been cleaning my room all morning .
- 10- They man (who is) talking to Liz is her dad / while (I'm) cleaning I listened to music.

Complex infinitives and gerunds

Complex infinitives

Instead of the simple infinitive (1) , we can use the perfect infinitive (to have + past participle) when we want to be clear that we're talking about an earlier time or a completed action (2) .

- 1- Ali seems to be ill a lot / I'm hoping to read the guidebook before we get to Berlin .
- 2- Ali seems to have been ill a lot / I'm hoping to have read the guidebook before we get to Berlin.

We can use the perfect infinitive after *would plus like ,hate love or prefer* when we talk about earlier events (3) . We can also use the simple infinitive after would have liked ,etc with a similar meaning (4) .

We sometimes use the perfect forms of both verbs in informal situations (5).

- 3- I would like to have been there / you would hate to have seen all the destruction.
- 4- I would have liked to be there / you would have hated to see all the destruction.
- 5- I would have liked to have been there / you would have hated to have seen it .

We can use the continuous infinitive (to be + present participle) for an action in progress (6) and the perfect continuous infinitive (to have been + present participle) for an action in progress in earlier time (7).

- 6- The children will pretend to be sleeping / the girl seemed to be waiting for someone .
- 7- They'll pretend to have been sleeping / she seemed to have been waiting there for hours .

We can use the passive infinitive (to be + past participle) for present or future actions happening to the subject (8) and the perfect passive infinitive (to have been + past participle) for earlier actions (9) .

- 8- My computer is supposed to be repaired today / the workers want to be paid in cash.
- 9- It was supposed to have been repaired last week / They were hoping to have been paid already.

Complex gerunds

instead of the simple gerund (10) ,we can use the perfect gerund (having + past participle) when we want to be clear that the action was in the past (11) .

- 10- Kirsten regretted telling us about the money / we thanked them for supporting us.
- 11- She regretted having told us about the money / we thanked them for having supported us.

We can use the passive gerund (being + past participle) for an action which happens to the subject (12) and the perfect passive gerund (having been+ past participle) to emphasize that the action happened in the past (13) .

- 12- In her book ,Annie O'NEILL wrote about being punished as a child for speaking Irish .
- 13- She still has nightmares from having been lockedup in a small dark cupboard for hours.

1- Complete these sentences with to be ,being ,to have or having.

Example :I didn't mind **being** the youngest in a family of ten ,but I knew I really wanted **to have** a large living space all to myself when I got older.

- 1- I 'm supposed studying today, but I'm too tired from not slept at all last night.
- 2- You wouldn't like been living here during the war, with bombs falling and peoplekilled every day.
- 3- The original tower is believed been constructed in 1810 . It has always had structural problems from not been built on more solid ground.
- 4- The cleaners want finished their work in this room before they leave today because there are another two rooms on the second floor that have Done tomorrow.

2- Complete each sentences using an infinitive or a gerund ,in such a way that it is as similar as possible in meaning to the sentence above it.

- 1- You were supposed to do your homework before you went out.
Your homework.....
- 2- She had taken the time to help me and I wanted to thank her for that.
I wanted
- 3- They hadn't been told about the changes and complained about it .
They complained about

3-complete this text with these infinitives and gerunds.

To be burning / being held / to have visited / to have been based / to be using / meeting / not to have seen / to have been built / to have been doing / travelling.

Did Marco Polo tell the truth when he wrote about To China and the emperor Kublai Khan ? Or did the 13th century Italian explorer just make up stories about places he would like and things he would like instead of captive in prison ? According to some experts, his stories appear on things he had heard about rather than things he had seen himself . In his account ,the Chinese were said paper money and "large black stones" (coal) for heat long before Europeans . However ,the great wall is known before his travels ,yet he appears It .