

Session 2

So, when is a verb followed by a gerund - and when is it followed by an infinitive? In this session you will do some practical activities, and listen to 6 Minute Grammar, to help you improve your knowledge of this tricky area of grammar.

Activity 1

Gerund or infinitive?

I've tried looking for a job everywhere...

In Session 1 you heard all about Sunny and her search for a job. Can you remember what Sunny said she really, really likes doing? And another thing she always tries to do?



Grammar notes

When we use two verbs together, the second verb usually changes its form to either a gerund or an infinitive. Gerunds and infinitives combine the meaning of a verb with the grammar of a noun.

Sunny said: I really, really **like travelling** – here, the verb **like** is followed by a gerund: **travelling**.

Sunny also said she **decided to study** drama – the verb **decided** here is followed by an infinitive: **to study**.

Gerunds are made by changing a verb to an **-ing form**.

play – playing
watch – watching
run – running
swim – swimming

Infinitives are made of **to + the base form of the verb**.

to play
to watch
to run
to swim

But we need to learn which form comes after each verb. Some verbs can only be followed by a gerund, and some only by an infinitive. Others can be followed by either. See how many you already know in the next activity.

To do

Are these verbs followed by gerunds or infinitives?

So how did you do? If you need to read a bit more about this, take a look at the [Grammar Reference](#).

Next

In the next activity we'll explain a bit more about how these verbs, gerunds and infinitives all work together. And we'll learn that with some verbs it's really important to know which one to use because it can change the meaning of what you say!