

# 14

## Chapter Fourteen

### Gerund & infinitive

- A gerund is a noun made from a verb by adding "-ing." The gerund form of the verb "read" is "reading". You can use a gerund as the subject, the complement, or the object of a sentence.
  - Gerunds can be made negative by adding "not."
- Infinitives are the "to" form of the verb. The infinitive form of "learn" is "to learn." You can also use an infinitive as the subject, the complement, or the object of a sentence.
  - Infinitives can be made negative by adding "not."

We use gerunds (verb + ing):

- After **certain verbs**  
e.g.- I **enjoy singing**
- Usually after prepositions  
e.g.- I drank a cup of coffee **before leaving**
- As the subject or object of a sentence  
e.g.- **Swimming** is good exercise

We use 'to' + infinitive:

- After **certain verbs**  
e.g.- We **decided to leave**.
- After many adjectives  
e.g.- It's **difficult to get** up early.
- To show purpose e.g.- I came to London **to study** English.

## gerund & infinitive

We use the bare infinitive (the infinitive without 'to'):

- After **modal verbs**  
e.g.- I can **meet** you at six o'clock
- After 'let', 'make' and (sometimes) 'help'  
e.g.-The teacher let us **leave** early.
- After some verbs of perception (see, watch, hear, notice, feel, sense)  
e.g.- I watched her **walk** away
- After expressions with 'why'  
e.g.- Why **go** out the night before an exam?

Here are some of the most common verbs that are usually followed by gerund:

enjoy	dislike	suggest	avoid	discuss
fancy	finish	recommend	keep	mind

Examples of gerund & infinitive

enjoy	I enjoyed living in France
fancy	I fancy seeing a film tonight
discuss	We discussed going on holiday together
dislike	I dislike waiting for buses
finish	We've finished preparing for the meeting
mind	I don't mind coming early
suggest	He suggested staying at the Grand Hotel
recommend	They recommended meeting earlier
keep	He kept working, although he felt ill
avoid	She avoided <b>talking</b> to her boss

## gerund & infinitive

And here are some common verbs followed by the infinitive:

agree	She agreed <b>to give</b> a presentation at the meeting
ask*	I asked <b>to leave</b> early / I asked him <b>to leave</b> early
decide	We decided <b>to go</b> out for dinner
help*	I helped <b>to carry it</b> . ( 'help' can also, be followed by the infinitive. That means you can write- 'I helped carry it' also)
plan	She plans <b>to buy</b> a new flat next year.
hope	I hope <b>to pass</b> the examination.
learn	They are learning <b>to sing</b> .
want*	I want <b>to come</b> to the party. I want him <b>to come</b> to the party.
would like*	I would like <b>to see</b> her tonight. I would like you <b>to see</b> her tonight
promise	We promised not <b>to be</b> late
*We can use an object before the infinitive with these verbs.	

## To be + infinitive

be + infinitive is used to talk about official plans and arrangements in a formal style.

- The Prime Minister is to visit Africa next month.

Be can be followed by a perfect infinitive (to have + past participle) to show that a planned event did not happen.

- I was to have returned last month, but I changed my mind.

To talk about pre-conditions-

- You will have to work hard if are to pass this exam.

In the present and past tenses.

- We are to go on a vacation. / We were to go on a vacation

Orders- Teachers often use this structure when speaking to their students.

- You are to learn this poem by heart.
- You are to do your homework before you can go out.

Common in the notices and the instructions.

- The label is not to be removed.
- The missing boy was nowhere to be found.

The possible aim when saying what should be done to reach it:

- If you ***are to work*** there for more than three months, you must have a residence permit.

Prohibition (only in the negative)- *You ***are not to do*** that again.*

*Be + to*-infinitive can also be used in the past:

- Mr. Jones ***was to speak*** at the meeting. (it was arranged and he did)

But *was/were + to + perfect infinitive* means that the arranged event did not actually happen:

- Mr. Jones ***was to have spoken*** at the meeting, but he had to cancel because of his illness.
- Things that should be done- *What ***am I to do***?*

**What is the difference between “*I am to go*” and “*I have to go*”?**

*I am to go* shows arrangement in advance and responsibility. *I have to go* shows ***to be compelled, obliged or required***. *I have to go* implies a stronger form of obligation than *I am to go*.