

# GERUNDS & INFINITIVES

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## PART 1: GERUNDS

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## GERUNDS & INFINITIVES: INTRODUCTION

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- **Gerund:** «Ving»    ///    **Infinitive:** «To V1»
- Using a verb in *Gerund (Ving)* and *Infinitive (to V1)* form turns the verb into a *noun*. In other words, gerunds and infinitives are used as nouns in the sentence.
  - ✓ **Telling** the truth in all circumstances is the greatest sign of integrity. (*telling*: noun)
  - ✓ It is rude **to talk** loudly in public transportation vehicle. (*to talk*: noun)
  - ✓ **Watching** the sky and the clouds brings more relaxation than you would imagine. (*watching*: noun)

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## GERUNDS & INFINITIVES: INTRODUCTION

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- REMEMBER!
- «State verbs» like «know, believe, understand, love» can be used as gerunds and infinitives, but they cannot be used with continuous tenses.
  - ✓ **Knowing** how to drive a car is a great advantage in this job. ✓
  - ✓ I cannot imagine **being** an interpreter between two people who speak foreign languages. ✓
  - ✓ **Hating** your job and **having** a small salary are two good reasons to leave your job. ✓
  - ✓ I **am knowing** three languages well. X

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## GERUNDS: AS A SUBJECT

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- «Ving» can be used *as a subject* in the sentence.
  - ✓ **Taking the garbage out** is my duty in the family.
  - ✓ **Catching cold in winter** is usually caused by dry indoor environments.
  - ✓ It looks easy, but **making delicious tea** is actually an art if you ask me.

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## GERUNDS: AS AN OBJECT

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- «**Ving**» can also be used as *the object of the sentence*.
  - ✓ My greatest ambition **is travelling** around the world someday.  
(What is *my greatest ambition*? It is *travelling around the world*.)
  - ✓ The worst thing about the winter season is **catching colds frequently**. (gerund)
  - ✓ One of my greatest joys in life is **serving tea and cookies to my guests**. (*serving*: gerund)
- It might sometimes be confused with continuous tenses when it is the object of the sentence.
  - ✓ Andrew cannot talk to you now, he **is serving** tea to the guests. (*serving*: verb)

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## PREPOSITIONS + GERUNDS

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- A *preposition is usually followed by gerund forms* in the sentence.
  - ✓ My students are interested **in playing** fun games in class.
  - ✓ Walter complains **about being** left out.
  - ✓ Neil is widely blamed **for planning** the attacks.

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## PREPOSITIONS + GERUNDS

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- «To» can be used in two different ways: 1. as *a preposition* or 2. as *the infinitive to* in the sentence.
- When it is used as a preposition, it is followed by «**Ving**» or **a noun**.
- Most common examples:
  - ✓ be used to / be accustomed to Ving
  - ✓ get used to / get accustomed to Ving
  - ✓ look forward to Ving
  - ✓ be committed to = be devoted to Ving
  - ✓ object to = be opposed to Ving

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## PREPOSITIONS + GERUNDS

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- Some examples:
  - ✓ I **am used to** *setting* ambitious goals.
  - ✓ Ian finally **got used to** *meeting* his guests in a hospitable way.
  - ✓ I **look forward to** *competing* in the chess tournament.
  - ✓ My neighbors **are committed to** *helping* the ones in need.
  - ✓ I **was opposed to** *opening* a new branch in the South.

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## PREPOSITIONS + GERUNDS

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- «of» is also accepted *as a preposition* and is therefore followed by a gerund.
  - ✓ Pamela was charged **of** *stealing* money from the register.
  - ✓ Terry is in charge **of** *running* the business in my absence.
  - ✓ I am sick and tired **of** *hearing* your excuses.

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I'm lucky in having found the  
perfect partner to spend my  
life with.

Sara Paretsky

 BrainyQuote



## VERB + GERUNDS

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- *Certain verbs are always followed by gerunds in the sentence.*
  - ✓ e.g. --- enjoy + Ving  
(the verb «enjoy» always needs a «Ving» or a noun after it.)
  - ✓ I **enjoy** *reading* a book while I am on holiday.
  - ✓ The doctor **advised** *drinking* lots of fluids.
  - ✓ I **quit** *smoking* long time ago.
  - ✓ I **cannot risk** *losing* all my money in this business!
  - ✓ Jack will not **mind** *helping* you with the repairs.

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## VERB + GERUNDS

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- Verbs that are used to give *advice, suggestion, or recommendation are usually followed by «Ving».*
  - ✓ The doctor **recommended** *taking* the pills regularly.
- The verb «go» is followed by «**Ving**» when talking about free time activities.
  - ✓ My sister **goes** *shopping* only at the weekend.
  - ✓ I **go** *running* in the morning, not in the evening.
  - ✓ Shall we **go** *walking* on Saturday?
- Unfortunately, the only way to learn other verbs followed by «Ving» is to memorize them.

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## VERB + GERUNDS

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- Verbs that are followed by «Ving» forms are presented as a .pdf file.

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## GERUNDS: FIXED EXPRESSIONS

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- The following fixed expressions are also followed by gerunds (Ving).
 

✓ be used to	get used to	be accustomed to	get accustomed to
look forward to	feel like	be opposed to	object to
can't help	can't bear	can't stand	can't risk
it's worth	in the habit of	don't mind	
it's no good	it's no use	there's no point in	
spend time doing sth		have fun doing sth	
have difficulty doing sth		waste money doing sth	

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## GERUNDS: FIXED EXPRESSIONS

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- The meaning of these fixed expressions are as follows:
- **be used to = be accustomed to** (be adjusted to doing sth; be able to do sth)
  - ✓ I **am used to** *running* long distances.
- **get accustomed to = get used to** (become adjusted to doing sth)
  - ✓ I **got used to** *cooking* my own dishes.
- **look forward to** (can't wait to do sth)
  - ✓ I **look forward to** *telling* you all the news.

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## GERUNDS: FIXED EXPRESSIONS

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- **feel like** (want to do sth)
  - ✓ I **don't feel like** *talking* to him right now.
- **be opposed to = object to** (be against sth)
  - ✓ I **am opposed to** *spending* money on expensive flowers.

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## GERUNDS: FIXED EXPRESSIONS

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- **can't help** (impossible to prevent or avoid something) (usually positive meaning)  
✓ I **can't help** *laughing* at his hilarious jokes.
- **can't bear = can't stand** (not like sth; hate sth) (usually negative meaning)  
✓ I **can't stand** *hearing* this noise anymore.
- **can't risk**  
✓ I **can't risk** *failing* this course!

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## GERUNDS: FIXED EXPRESSIONS

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- **it's worth** (used to recommend the action because you think it may be useful, pleasant, etc.)  
✓ This project **is** definitely **worth** *investing* money and time!
- **be in the habit of** (be used to doing sth)  
✓ Unfortunately, David **is in the habit of** *running* from serious relationships.

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## GERUNDS: FIXED EXPRESSIONS

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- **don't mind (you) doing sth.** (be bothered or annoyed by sth)
  - ✓ I **don't mind** *carrying* your books for you.
  - ✓ I **don't mind** you *listening* to music here.
- **it's no use = it's no good = there's no point in** (be useless to do sth)
  - ✓ There **is no point in** *trying* to convince Mel; she never listens!

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## GERUNDS: FIXED EXPRESSIONS

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- **spend time doing sth / have fun doing sth**
  - ✓ I **have fun** *reading* science fiction these days.
- **have difficulty/trouble doing sth**
  - ✓ My son **has trouble** *falling* into sleep; we might need professional help.
- **waste money doing sth**
  - ✓ Henry **wasted** all his money *gambling* in casinos.

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## POSSESSIVES + GERUNDS

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- *Possessive adjectives* (*my, her, their, etc.*) and *possessive 's* (e.g. Jack's school) are always followed by «**Ving**» form.
  - ✓ **Your** *standing* strong during those difficult times proved how mature you are.
  - ✓ I feel positively about **Ted's** *influencing* our daughter in academic matters.
  - ✓ I am very happy about **your** *getting* accepted to University of Minnesota.

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## EXERCISE TIME

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COMING NEXT: INFINITIVES IN SUBJECT & OBJECT POSITION

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