

PART VI

GERUND AND INFINITIVE COMPLEMENTS

Gerunds and infinitives are verb forms, but they are not used as the main verbs in sentences. Gerunds are formed by adding *-ing* to the base form of a verb: *running, talking, doing*. (The *-ing* form is often called the *present participle*.) Infinitives consist of two parts: the infinitive marker *to* and the base form of a verb: *to run, to talk, to do*. Gerunds and infinitives can follow main verbs.

She enjoys **playing** the guitar.

He promised **to sing** for us.

Some verbs, such as *enjoy*, are followed by gerunds. Others, such as *promise*, are followed by infinitives. But some verbs can be followed by either gerunds or infinitives.

I like **reading** mysteries.

I like **to read** mysteries.

Generally, gerunds signal that an action has happened or is especially vivid. Infinitives indicate future or hypothetical events.

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Gerunds

Gerunds have four forms:

SIMPLE: She avoids **driving** during rush hour.

PERFECT: He admits **having taken** the documents.

PASSIVE: They dislike always **being put** in the last row.

PASSIVE PERFECT: I appreciate **having been given** this opportunity.

The following verbs can be followed by gerunds but cannot be followed by infinitives:

admit	appreciate	avoid	consider
delay	deny	dislike	enjoy
finish	keep	mind	miss
quit	recommend	risk	suggest

exercise

21-1

Complete each sentence with the form of the gerund indicated in parentheses.

EXAMPLE: Albert considered *living* (live, simple) abroad for a year.

1. My brother and his wife delayed _____ (have, simple) children until they were settled.
2. I miss _____ (surprise, passive) on my birthday by my grandfather.
3. The politician denied _____ (mention, perfect) a possible tax increase.

4. I keep _____ (try, simple) his number, but he doesn't answer.
5. They didn't mind _____ (invite, passive perfect) at the last minute.
6. The doctor recommended _____ (eat, simple) more fruits and vegetables.
7. I appreciate _____ (choose, passive perfect) as your representative.
8. The committee finished _____ (review, simple) the applications yesterday.
9. We admitted _____ (be, perfect) the source of the trouble.
10. He dislikes _____ (treat, passive) as a child.
11. The tour guide suggested _____ (stop, simple) for lunch at this restaurant.
12. Fortunately, we avoided _____ (give, passive) a ticket.
13. For some reason, she quit _____ (play, simple) the piano a year ago.
14. When he made the repair, he risked _____ (damage, simple) the whole system.
15. We enjoyed _____ (introduce, passive) to your family.

exercise**21-2**

Use gerunds to answer the following questions.

EXAMPLE: What sport do you like playing?

I like playing soccer.

1. What do you enjoy doing on holidays?

2. What have you avoided doing in the past year?

3. What do you dislike doing on the weekend?

4. What story did you like being told when you were a child?

5. Whom do you miss seeing whom you cannot see now?

Infinitives

Infinitives have a number of forms. These are the most common:

SIMPLE: Eva wants **to become** a lawyer.

PROGRESSIVE: They seem **to be telling** the truth.

PERFECT: He hopes **to have finished** his work by next Friday.

PASSIVE: Anna deserves **to be promoted**.

PASSIVE PERFECT: We pretended **to have been surprised**.

The following verbs can be followed by infinitives but cannot be followed by gerunds:

agree	choose	decide	deserve
expect	fail	hope	intend
manage	need	offer	plan
pretend	promise	seem	want

exercise

22-1

Complete each sentence with the form of the infinitive indicated in parentheses.

EXAMPLE: Janine managed *to find* (find, simple) an apartment on the first day of her search.

- I plan _____ (work, progressive) full-time next year.
- He agreed _____ (pay, simple) me for the photographs.
- She hopes _____ (earn, perfect) a raise by the end of this year.
- The child pretended _____ (faint, perfect).

5. Shoba deserves _____ (hire, passive) for the new position.
6. Everyone offered _____ (help, simple) us.
7. The announcement seems _____ (leak, passive perfect) to the press.
8. In order to get that job, he needs _____ (network, progressive).
9. The director expected _____ (receive, perfect) the report by now.
10. The reporter had wanted _____ (give, passive) a different assignment.
11. I promise _____ (meet, simple) you there at 5:00.
12. My parents decided _____ (stay, simple) an extra week.
13. He failed _____ (turn in, simple) the work on time.
14. Our neighbors intend _____ (move, simple) next year.
15. The company chose _____ (close, simple) one of the plants.

exercise**22-2**

Use infinitives to answer the following questions.

EXAMPLE: What did you expect to learn in this book?

I expected to learn about English verbs.

1. Where do you plan to go this weekend?

2. Where do you intend to be next year at this time?

3. What do you need to buy this week?

4. What do you want to have for dinner?

5. What do you expect to study next term?

Verbs Followed by a Noun Phrase and an Infinitive

Some verbs are followed by both a noun phrase (a pronoun or a noun and any of its modifiers) and an infinitive:

advise	allow	cause	encourage
invite	order	permit	persuade
require	teach	tell	urge

exercise

22-3

Complete each of the following sentences using the noun phrase provided and the simple form of the infinitive.

EXAMPLE: us, go

The teacher encouraged *us to go* to the lecture.

1. him, exercise

Dr. Olson advised _____ more frequently.

2. us, attend

Carl invited _____ his piano recital.

3. my sister, ride

My brother taught _____ a bike.

4. me, turn

He told _____ left at the corner.

5. people, touch

The museum guide permitted _____ some of the exhibits.

6. Brent and me, be

The accident caused _____ more careful the next time.

7. local artists, hang

Laura Adams allowed _____ their paintings in her restaurant.

8. the protesters, leave

The police ordered _____.

9. me, rethink

My parents persuaded _____ my plan.

10. employers, provide

The new law required _____ safety training.

11. Robyn, major

Mr. Pruett encouraged _____ in biology.

12. everyone, conserve

The president urged _____ energy.

Gerunds or Infinitives

Some verbs can be followed by either gerunds or infinitives. Sometimes there is no significant difference in meaning between a sentence with a gerund and a sentence with an infinitive.

He began **humming**.

He began **to hum**.

The most common verbs falling into this category are the following three verbs dealing with time:

begin continue start

The verb *stop*, however, is used to express two different meanings.

We stopped singing. [The singing has ended.]

We stopped to sing. [The singing has not started yet.]

After verbs dealing with emotion, the gerund is generally used to express the vividness of an action, an event, or a state or to indicate its actual occurrence. The infinitive usually indicates a future, potential, or hypothetical action, event, or state.

I usually prefer **cooking** my own food, but tonight I would prefer **to go** out.

The following verbs fall into this category:

hate like love prefer

Some verbs dealing with memory signal different time sequences, depending on whether a gerund or an infinitive is used.

I remember **locking** the door. [The door was locked; then the action of locking was remembered.]

I remembered **to lock** the door. [The remembering of a responsibility took place before the action of locking was performed.]

The following verbs fall into this category:

remember forget regret

exercise

23-1

Underline the gerund or infinitive. Circle the reason that the gerund or the infinitive is used. If either a gerund or infinitive could be used, circle "No significant change in meaning."

1. It started to rain.

Memory of action

Vivid depiction

No significant change in meaning

2. I remembered to bring a lunch.

Memory to perform action

Vivid depiction

No significant change in meaning

3. He regretted quitting that job.

Memory of action

Memory to perform action

Vivid depiction

4. They continued to talk during the entire movie.

Actual occurrence

Vivid depiction

No significant change in meaning

5. My friends and I love going to the beach.

Memory of action

Vivid depiction

No significant change in meaning

6. I would hate to clean up that mess.

Actual occurrence

Hypothetical occurrence

Vivid depiction

7. Laxmi remembers returning the books to the library.

Memory of action

Memory to perform action

Vivid depiction

8. My neighbors like throwing huge parties.

Actual occurrence

Vivid depiction

Potential occurrence

9. The car began to make strange noises.

Actual occurrence

Vivid depiction

No significant change in meaning

10. I prefer to take classes at night.

Vivid depiction

Potential occurrence

No significant change in meaning