

Gerunds and Infinitives



Gerunds and infinitives can replace a *noun* in a sentence.

Gerund = the present participle (**-ing**) form of the verb, e.g., singing, dancing, running.

Infinitive = **to** + the base form of the verb, e.g., **to** sing, **to** dance, **to** run.

Whether you use a gerund or an infinitive depends on the main verb in the sentence.

I expect **to have** the results of the operation soon. (Infinitive)

I anticipate **having** the research completed eventually. (Gerund)

Gerunds

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Gerunds can be used after certain verbs including enjoy, fancy, discuss, dislike, finish, mind, suggest, recommend, keep, and avoid.

1) After *prepositions* of place and time.

Ex: I made dinner *before getting* home.

Ex: He looked unhappy *after seeing* his work schedule.

2) To replace the *subject or object* of a sentence

Ex: Lachlan likes *eating* coconut oil.

Ex: *Jumping* off a cliff is dangerous, but a real thrill.

Infinitives

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Infinitives can be used after certain verbs including agree, ask, decide, help, plan, hope, learn, want, would like, and promise.

1) After many *adjectives*:

Ex: It is hard **to** *make* dinner this late.

Ex: I find it difficult **to** *describe* my feelings about writing research essays.

2) To show *purpose*:

Ex: I left for Russia **to** *study* Russian.

Ex: I came to the office **to** *solve* the mystery of the missing keys.