



Gerunds and Infinitives

Summary

Gerund (-ing)	Bare Infinitive	To-infinitive
1. To express preference	1. After modal verbs	1. Express reason or purpose for an action
2. After verbs for beginnings/ends	2. After 'let' and 'make'	2. After adj+ of + noun or it + be + adjective
3. After certain verbs: keep, suggest, etc.	3. After feeling words: see, hear, etc.	3. After too / enough
4. After certain expressions: can't help		4. After certain verbs: advise, hope, etc.
5. After certain prepositions: On...		5. After certain adjectives

Gerund: 1

1. To express preference:

- I like **going** to the zoo.
- I enjoy **cooking** new meals.
- I hate **going** to school.
- I prefer **listening** to music.

Gerund: 2

2. After verbs that express beginnings or ends:

- I started **practising** the piano at 2pm.
- He continued **talking** for hours!
- You finished **working** at 10pm.
- I stopped **listening** to them.

Gerund: 3

3. After certain verbs:

avoid	imagine	keep	postpone	forget
remember	suggest	practise	delay	feel like

- I avoided **talking** to him.
- Why do you keep **disturbing** me?
- Can I suggest **trying** a new method?
- I remember **going** to England on holiday.
- I can't imagine **failing** an exam.

Gerund: 4

3. After certain expressions:

- I couldn't help **listening** to their conversation.
- It's worth **saving** money when you can.
- She can't stand **waiting** in queues.
- We look forward to **meeting** your girlfriend.
- It's no use **telling** her what to do.

Gerund: 5

4. After certain prepositions:

- She is very good at **learning** new skills.
- I went from **loving** chocolate to **hating** it.
- You can leave after **finishing** your homework.
- I am bored of **doing** maths problems.

Bare Infinitive: 1

After modal verbs:

- We should **buy** her a present.
- I might **go** to bed soon.
- You must **listen** to your teacher.
- I can **juggle** with three balls.

Bare Infinitive: 2

After 'make' and 'let':

- My mum makes me **eat** my vegetables.
- You can't make me **stay**.
- Our teacher lets us **leave** early sometimes.
- Please let me **help** you.

'Make' in the **passive voice** takes the to-infinitive:

- She was made **to apologise** to the teacher

Bare Infinitive: 3

After feeling words 'see' and 'hear':

- I saw him **talk** to the teacher.
- We heard her **sing** beautifully.

Bare Infinitive: 3

'see' and 'hear' can also be followed by the gerund form:

- Lucy saw you **walking** down the street.
- Someone heard you **crying** last night.

'see' and 'hear' in the **passive voice** take the to-infinitive:

- He was seen **to steal** something from your bag.
- She was heard **to laugh** at her friend's joke.

To-infinitive: 1

To express reason or purpose for an action:

- I go to school **to learn**.
- I went to the shops **to buy** a pair of shoes.
- She stood up **to see** the stage better.
- He goes swimming **to get** fit.

To-infinitive: 2

1. After adjective + of + pronoun/noun:

- It was kind of her **to help** me.
- It is mean of you **to tease** him.

2. After it + be + adjective:

- It is hard **to finish** my homework on time.
- It was lovely **to see** you.

To-infinitive: 3

After 'too' and 'enough':

- I am not old enough **to buy** alcohol.
- She is fit enough **to run** for many miles.
- This jumper is too small **to wear**.
- The teacher was too angry **to speak**.

To-infinitive: 4

After certain verbs:

advise	choose	hope	offer	want	refuse
arrange	decide	learn	promise	plan	expect

- I chose **to enter** the competition.
- She hopes **to get** the best grades in the school.
- They promised **to finish** the project on time.
- We plan **to go** to Ocean Park this weekend.
- He refuses **to listen** to me.

To-infinitive: 5

After certain adjectives:

afraid	surprised	free	glad
pleased	ready	sorry	happy

- I am afraid **to sleep** in complete darkness.
- You are free **to leave** whenever you want.
- She was very happy **to see** me.
- Are you ready **to go**?
- I was pleased **to find** that my mum had tidied my room.