

Advanced English:

This information is available online at www.englishpage.com/gerunds/part_3.htm

I strongly recommend this reading.

Gerunds and Infinitives

13. Some verbs can be followed by a gerund or an infinitive, but with a difference in meaning. [List of Verbs Followed by a Gerund or Infinitive \(Different Meaning\)](#)

Examples:

- Nancy **remembered getting** married. *NANCY HAS A MEMORY OF GETTING MARRIED.*
- Fred **remembered to bring** sunblock to the beach. *FRED REMEMBERED THAT HE NEEDED TO BRING SUNBLOCK.*

14. Some verbs can be followed by a gerund or an infinitive with little difference in meaning. [List of Verbs Followed by a Gerund or Infinitive \(Similar Meaning\)](#)

Examples:

- She **likes swimming**.
- She **likes to swim**.

Although the difference in meaning is small with these particular verbs, and gerunds and infinitives can often be used interchangeably, there is still a meaning difference. Using a gerund suggests that you are referring to real activities or experiences. Using an infinitive suggests that you are talking about potential or possible activities or experiences. Because of this small difference in meaning, gerunds and infinitives cannot always be used interchangeably, such as in the examples below.

Examples:

- The British reporter **likes living** in New York. *HE LIVES IN NEW YORK AND HE LIKES WHAT HE EXPERIENCES THERE.*
- The British reporter **likes to live** in New York whenever he works in the United States. *HE LIKES THE OPTION OR POSSIBILITY OF LIVING IN NEW YORK WHEN HE WORKS IN THE UNITED STATES.*
- I **like speaking** French because it's such a beautiful language. *I LIKE THE EXPERIENCE OF SPEAKING FRENCH, AND THE WAY IT MAKES ME FEEL WHEN I SPEAK THE LANGUAGE.*
- I **like to speak** French when I'm in France. *I PREFER THE OPTION OF SPEAKING FRENCH WHEN I AM IN FRANCE.*

15. There are many "be + adjective" combinations that are commonly followed by infinitives. [List of Be + Adjective Combinations Followed by Infinitives](#)

Examples:

- They **were anxious to begin**.
- She **was delighted to receive** such good feedback.
- He **is lucky to have** such good friends.

16. There are also many nouns that are commonly followed by infinitives. [List of Nouns Followed by Infinitives](#)

Examples:

- It was a good **decision to move** to San Francisco.
- His **wish to become** an actor was well known.
- Laura's **desire to improve** impressed me.

17. Sometimes infinitives are used to express the idea of "in order to do something."

Examples:

- He bought the English dictionary **to look up** difficult words. *IN ORDER TO LOOK UP*
- Janine sold her car **to get** the money that she needed. *IN ORDER TO GET*
- Juan uses Englishpage.com **to learn** English. *IN ORDER TO LEARN*

This idea of "in order to do something" is found in many English patterns.

too + adjective/adverb + infinitive

Examples:

- The box is **too heavy to carry**.
- The television is **too expensive to buy**.
- Fiona ran **too slowly to win** the race.
- We arrived **too late to see** the beginning of the movie.

adjective/adverb + enough + infinitive

Examples:

- She is **tall enough to reach** the book on the shelf.
- Brian was **smart enough to enter** college at the age of 12.
- Linda runs **quickly enough to win** the race.

enough + noun(s) + infinitive

Examples:

- He has **enough money to buy** his own car.
- Cheryl owns **enough books to start** her own library!

- Diane needs **enough time to finish** writing her book.

18. Certain expressions are followed by "ING" forms. [List of Expressions followed by Verb+ing Forms](#)

Examples:

- He **had fun fishing**.
- They **had difficulty finding** a parking place.
- She **spent her time practicing** the piano.

19. Verbs which indicate location can often be followed by "ING" forms. This pattern is VERB OF LOCATION + LOCATION + VERB+ING. [List of Verbs of Location](#)

Examples:

- Sarah **stood at the corner waiting** for Tom.
- Melissa **lay in bed thinking** about her future.
- Don **clung to the side of the cliff looking** down.

20. In addition to simple gerund and infinitive forms, there are progressive gerund and infinitive forms, passive gerund and infinitive forms and perfect gerund and infinitive forms as well as combinations of these forms. Progressive forms are used to emphasize that an action is taking place now. Passive forms are used to emphasize that the subject of the sentence is being acted upon. Perfect gerund and infinitive forms are used to emphasize completion in both the past and the future. Study the examples below to help understand these concepts. To learn more about progressiveness, the passive voice and the perfect aspect, complete the [Englishpage.com Verb Tense Tutorial](#).

| | GERUND FORMS | INFINITIVE FORMS |
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| SIMPLE | The teacher enjoys teaching . | The teacher wants to teach . |
| PROGRESSIVE | Mr. Smith is really enjoying teaching his class. <i>LOOKS THE SAME AS SIMPLE FORM ABOVE.</i> | Mr. Smith would like to be teaching his class. |
| PASSIVE | The students enjoy being taught . | The students want to be taught . |
| PERFECT | The retired teacher recalled having taught . | The teacher was expecting to have taught that already. |
| PASSIVE + | The students are enjoying | The students would like to |

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| PROGRESSIVE | being taught by such an exciting new teacher. <i>LOOKS THE SAME AS THE PASSIVE FORM ABOVE.</i> | be being taught by Mr Smith. |
| PASSIVE PERFECT + | The older students recalled having been taught that already. | The students were expecting to have been taught that by now. |

Verbs Followed by Gerunds OR Infinitives (Different Meaning)

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| begin | She began singing. She began to sing. <i>WHEN "BEGIN" IS USED IN NON-CONTINUOUS TENSES, YOU CAN EITHER USE A GERUND OR AN INFINITIVE.</i> | She is beginning to sing. <i>WHEN "BEGIN" IS USED IN CONTINUOUS TENSES, AN INFINITIVE IS USED.</i> |
| dread | She dreaded taking the test. <i>USUALLY "DREAD" IS FOLLOWED BY A GERUND.</i> | He dreaded to think of the consequences of his actions. <i>"DREAD" IS SOMETIMES USED WITH INFINITIVES SUCH AS "THINK" OR "CONSIDER." IN THE SENTENCE ABOVE, "DREADED TO THINK" MEANS "DID NOT WANT TO THINK."</i> |
| forget | She forgot reading the book when she was a kid. <i>WHEN "FORGET" IS USED WITH A GERUND, IT MEANS "TO FORGET THAT YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING." THE SENTENCE ABOVE MEANS THAT SHE READ THE BOOK WHEN SHE WAS A KID, AND THAT SHE HAS FORGOTTEN THAT FACT.</i> | She forgot to pay the rent this month. <i>WHEN FORGET IS USED WITH AN INFINITIVE, IT MEANS "TO FORGET THAT YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING." THE SENTENCE ABOVE MEANS THAT SHE FORGOT THAT SHE NEEDED TO PAY THE RENT.</i> |
| keep | She kept talking. <i>"KEEP" IS NORMALLY USED WITH A GERUND TO MEAN THAT YOU CONTINUE DOING AN ACTION.</i> | The attackers kept hostages to prevent the police from entering. <i>"KEEP" CAN ALSO BE USED WITH AN OBJECT FOLLOWED BY AN INFINITIVE, BUT THEN THE INFINITIVE TAKES ON THE MEANING OF "IN ORDER TO..." IN THE SENTENCE ABOVE, THE ATTACKERS KEPT HOSTAGES IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE POLICE FROM ENTERING.</i> |

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| <p>need</p> | <p>The house needs cleaning.</p> <p><i>WHEN "NEED" IS USED WITH A GERUND, IT TAKES ON A PASSIVE MEANING. THE SENTENCE ABOVE MEANS "THE HOUSE NEEDS TO BE CLEANED."</i></p> | <p>He needs to call his boss. He needs him to call his boss.</p> <p><i>"NEED" IS USUALLY USED WITH AN INFINITIVE OR AN OBJECT + AN INFINITIVE.</i></p> |
| <p>regret</p> | <p>I regretted being late to the interview.</p> <p><i>"REGRET" IS NORMALLY USED WITH A GERUND.</i></p> | <p>We regret to inform you that your position at the company is being eliminated.</p> <p><i>"REGRET" IS SOMETIMES USED WITH INFINITIVES SUCH AS "TO INFORM." IN THE SENTENCE ABOVE, "WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU" MEANS "WE WISH WE DID NOT HAVE TO TELL YOU (BAD NEWS)."</i></p> |
| <p>remember</p> | <p>I remember mentioning the meeting yesterday.</p> <p><i>WHEN "REMEMBER" IS USED WITH A GERUND, IT MEANS "TO REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING." THE SENTENCE ABOVE MEANS THAT I MENTIONED THE MEETING, AND THAT I REMEMBER THE FACT THAT I DID THAT.</i></p> | <p>He remembered to turn off the lights before he left.</p> <p><i>WHEN "REMEMBER" IS USED WITH AN INFINITIVE, IT MEANS "TO REMEMBER THAT YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING." THE SENTENCE ABOVE MEANS THAT HE REMEMBERED THAT HE NEEDED TO TURN THE LIGHTS OFF.</i></p> |
| <p>start</p> | <p>Marge started talking really fast. Marge started to talk really fast.</p> <p><i>WHEN "START" IS USED IN NON-CONTINUOUS TENSES, YOU CAN EITHER USE A GERUND OR AN INFINITIVE.</i></p> | <p>Marge is starting to talk really fast.</p> <p><i>WHEN "START" IS USED IN CONTINUOUS TENSES, AN INFINITIVE IS USED.</i></p> <p>I started to learn Russian, but it was so much work that I finally quit the class.</p> <p><i>IN OTHER SITUATIONS, AN INFINITIVE MEANS THAT YOU DID NOT COMPLETE OR CONTINUE AN ACTION.</i></p> |
| <p>stop</p> | <p>He stopped smoking for health reasons.</p> <p><i>"STOP" IS NORMALLY USED WITH A GERUND.</i></p> | <p>He stopped to rest for a few minutes.</p> <p><i>WHEN "STOP" IS USED WITH AN INFINITIVE, THE INFINITIVE TAKES ON THE MEANING OF "IN ORDER TO." IN THE SENTENCE ABOVE, HE STOPPED IN ORDER TO REST FOR A FEW MINUTES.</i></p> |
| <p>try</p> | <p>She can't find a job. She tried looking in the paper, but there</p> | <p>She tried to climb the tree, but she couldn't even get off the</p> |

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| <p>was nothing. She tried asking friends and family, but nobody knew of anything. She also tried going shop to shop, but nobody was hiring.</p> <p><i>"TRY + GERUND" MEANS TO TRY OR TO EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT METHODS TO SEE IF SOMETHING WORKS.</i></p> <p>She tried eating the snake soup, but she didn't like it.</p> <p><i>"TRY + GERUND" IS OFTEN USED WHEN YOU EXPERIMENT WITH SOMETHING, BUT YOU DO NOT REALLY LIKE IT OR WANT TO DO IT AGAIN.</i></p> | <p>ground.</p> <p><i>WHEN YOU "TRY TO DO" SOMETHING, YOU WANT TO DO IT, BUT YOU DO NOT SUCCEED IN ACTUALLY DOING IT. IN THE SENTENCE ABOVE, AN INFINITIVE IS USED BECAUSE SHE CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY CLIMB THE TREE.</i></p> <p>Try not to wake the baby when you get up tomorrow at 5 AM.</p> <p><i>AN INFINITIVE IS ALSO USED IF YOU ARE ASKING SOMEONE TO TRY SOMETHING THEY MAY OR MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH</i></p> |
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Be + Adjective Combinations Followed by Infinitives

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| be amazed | He was amazed to discover the truth. |
| be anxious | She was anxious to start her new job. |
| be ashamed | He was ashamed to admit he had lied. |
| be bound | She is bound to be elected class president. |
| be careful | They were careful not to reveal the winner of the prize until the end. |
| be certain | She is certain to get the job. |
| be content | The student was content to receive second place in the competition. |
| be delighted | We were delighted to be invited to the wedding. |
| be determined | He was determined to finish the marathon. |
| be eager | He was eager to begin. |

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| be eligible | They were not eligible to participate in the program. |
| be fortunate | She was fortunate to receive the research grant. |
| be glad | I would be glad to help out. |
| be happy | She was happy to see them at the party. |
| be hesitant | Mary was hesitant to say anything. |
| be liable | The mountain climber is liable to hurt himself if he doesn't use well-made equipment. |
| be likely | They are likely to show up at any time. |
| be lucky | You were lucky to have such an opportunity. |
| be pleased | I am pleased to meet you. |
| be proud | He was proud to have been chosen to lead the project. |
| be ready | I'm ready to go now. |
| be reluctant | The witness was reluctant to reveal what he had seen. |
| be sad | She was really sad to leave. |
| be shocked | He was shocked to discover the truth. |
| be sorry | I am sorry to have to tell you that the tickets are sold out. |
| be surprised | She was surprised to discover that he had never learned how to swim. |