



GRAMMAR

GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES

Learning how to use gerunds and infinitives is one of the most challenging aspects of learning English. For this reason, here you have a deep explanation of all their uses.

• GERUND

It is a verb form which ends in *-ing* and works as a noun in the following cases:

- 1) As a subject of a sentence when we refer to actions or general facts:

Taking up a new sport is not easy.

Eating vegetables is very healthy.

- 2) After prepositions:

Lucy doesn't like his style of **playing**.

He entered without **knocking**.

- 3) After go when we talk about physical activities:

They go **skiing** every winter.

He never goes **fishing**.

- 4) After some expressions such as:

Be used to/ get used to (remember the previous grammar point), *can't help* (no poder evitar), *can't stand* (no soportar), *don't mind/ wouldn't mind* (no importar, dar igual), *feel like* (apetecer), *it's no use* (es inútil...), *look forward* (estar deseando), *it is (not) worth* (no merece la pena...)

I don't mind **going** home on foot.

I feel like **having** a hot chocolate.

- 5) As a direct object with some verbs:

Consider (considerar), *continue* (continuar), *deny* (negar), *detest* (detestar), *dislike* (no gustar), *enjoy* (disfrutar), *finish* (acabar), *hate* (odiar), *like* (gustar), *love* (encantar, amar), *prefer* (preferir), *recommend* (recomendar), *suggest* (sugerir), *admit* (admitir), *avoid* (evitar), *fancy* (gustar), *give up* (dejar un hábito), *go on* (continuar), *imagine* (imaginar), *involve* (involucrar), *keep on* (continuar), *practice* (practicar), *miss* (echar de menos; perderse una actividad), *risk* (arriesgar), *resist* (resistir).

I enjoy **doing** sport.

He suggested **buying** a new laptop for their department.

Gerunds in negative sentences = NOT + verb -ing

He hated **not passing** his exams.

He resisted **not eating** sweets.

• **'TO' INFINITIVE**

It is a verb form preceded by *to* and it is used in these cases:

- 1) After some adjectives and adverbs:

She was glad **to see** her.

*It was difficult for us **to pass** the exam. (for + object+ 'to' inf.)

*It is very kind of you **to help** me. (of + object+ 'to' inf.)

I woke up early **to arrive** to the train station on time.

- 2) After nouns:

It is a pleasure **to meet** you.

It is time **to go** home.

- 3) To express purpose:

She bought me this book **to learn** English.

This tool is **to make** holes on the wall.

- 4) After wh- words:

I don't know where **to go** or what **to do**.

*I don't know why **she left**.

- 5) After would + like/ love/ prefer:

I would love **to go** with you.

I would prefer **to stay** here longer.

- 6) After expressions with too (demasiado) and enough (lo suficiente):

He is too short **to reach** the top shelf.

He isn't tall enough **to reach** the top shelf.

- 7) After some verbs such as:

Agree (estar de acuerdo), *appear* (aparecer), *choose* (elegir), *decide* (decidir), *expect* (esperar, tener la esperanza de que ocurra algo), *hope* (similar a *expect*), *learn* (aprender), *plan* (planear), *promise* (prometer), *refuse* (negarse), *seem* (parecer), *want* (querer), *wish* (desear), *afford* (permitirse algo), *attempt* (intentar), *fail* (fracasar, suspender), *help* (ayudar), *manage* (arreglárselas), *need* (necesitar), *offer* (ofrecer), *prepare* (preparar), *pretend* (fingir).

He promised **to study** harder.

He decided **to try** Japanese food.

8) Verbs + object + 'to' infinitive:

Advise (aconsejar), *help*, *invite* (invitar), *persuade* (convencer), *teach* (enseñar), *tell* (contar), *warn* (advertir), *allow* (permitir), *ask* (preguntar; pedir), *encourage* (animar), *expect*, *order* (ordenar), *recommend*, *remind* (recordar), *want*.

He invited me **to join** them.

She wants us **to stay** longer.

Infinitives in negative sentences = NOT + 'to' infinitive

He agreed **not to drink** alcohol.

I warned Lucía **not to go** alone.

• **BARE INFINITIVE OR INFINITIVE WITHOUT 'TO'**

1) After modal verbs:

Can, *could*, *may*, *might*, *must*, *shall*, *will*, *would*, *should*, *needn't*.

You must **be** here at 10 o'clock.

I may **go** to the shop to buy some fruit.

2) After make/ let + object: (*hacer que alguien haga algo/ permitir*)

The film made me **cry**.

I let Sally **come** with us.

3) After see, watch, smell, hear: (*ver, observar, oler, oír*)

I saw him **play**. (Lo vi jugar todo el partido)

*They are also followed by -ing and there is a change of meaning:

I saw him **playing**. (Lo vi jugar sólo un rato del partido)

• **VERBS FOLLOWED BY GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES**

1) *Begin* (*empezar*), *forbid* (*prohibir*), *intend*, *propose* (*proponer*) and *start* (*empezar*):

They started **to answer/ answering** the letters. (mismo significado)

2) *REMEMBER/ FORGET/ REGRET*: (*acordarse/ olvidar/ arrepentirse*) (cambio de significado)

○ + 'to' infinitive = acción futura

Remember **to post** the letter.

Sorry, I **forgot** to buy milk.

I regret **to tell** you the news.

○ + -ing = hecho pasado

He remembered **seeing** that film.

He will never forget **flying** the Alps.

I regret **buying** this dress.

3) **STOP:** (cambio de significado)

- + 'to' infinitive = parar temporalmente para hacer otra cosa
He stopped **to get** some petrol.
- + -ing = parar definitivamente; terminar; dejar un hábito
He stopped **doing** his homework at nine pm.

WORKSHEET

1) **Choose the correct form of the verbs (infinitive or gerund).**

- I am keen on..... (work) in the computer industry.
- Amy decided..... (see) a doctor.
- Leila enjoys..... (read) love stories.
- Do you intend..... (learn) Italian or English?
- Do you mind..... (help) me wash the dishes?
- Alan asked..... (talk) to the boss.
- I can't help..... (laugh) when I watch Mr Been.
- If Sara keeps..... (come) to work late, she'll have problems with the boss.
- Liza hates..... (study) Maths.
- Are you interested in..... (live) in África ?

2) **Rephrasing:** Finish these sentences writing down a suitable –ing or infinitive verb form without changing the meaning of the original sentence:

Example: Andrew gave up smoking last January -> Andrew **stopped smoking last January.**

- Peter is sure that he posted the letter yesterday.
Peter remembers
- I liked to read the novel.
I enjoyed
- Please, remember to post this letter.
Please, don't forget
- Don't sing the same song again:
Stop
- 'I will do it', she said.
She promised
- Ellen didn't have enough money for the ticket.
Ellen couldn't afford
- 'I will not help!', said John.
John refused