

Gerunds and Infinitives

Ending in *-ing* and functioning as a noun, a gerund is a verbal. Since a gerund is based on a verb, it expresses action or a state of being; on the other hand, since a gerund functions as a noun, it can be a subject, direct object, subject complement, and object of preposition.

Running a marathon in three hours is no easy task. gerund as subject

I hope that you appreciate ***my taking you to the library***. gerund as direct object of the verb appreciate

My favorite hobby is ***running in the mountains***. gerund as subject complement to "hobby"

A driver will get into trouble ***for driving while intoxicated***. gerund as object of the preposition "for"

Consisting of the word "to" plus a verb, an infinitive is another type of verbal; it expresses action or a state of being. However, unlike verbs, infinitives can function as a subject, direct object, subject complement, adjective, or adverb.

To sleep in is a luxury. infinitive as subject

The students wanted ***to study***. infinitive as direct object of verb "wanted"

Her desire is ***to write***. infinitive as subject complement to "desire"

Tom did not have the courage ***to leave***. infinitive as adjective modifying "courage"

Jack studies ***to learn***. infinitive as adverb modifying verb "studies"

Verbs of emotions, verbs of completion/incompletion, and verbs of remembering can be affected by the choice of infinitive or gerund.

Verbs of emotions

Actual event: *Did you like **dancing** at the party last night?*

Potential event: *Do you like **to dance** at parties?*

Verbs of completion/incompletion

Actual event: *I started **reading** the History book. Chapter Two is especially hard.*

Potential event: *Did you start **to read** the History book?*

Verbs of remembering

Time sequence: *Susan remembered **turning off** the lights when she left the house.*

1. *Susan turned off the lights.*
2. *Susan remembered that she did so.*

Time sequence: *Susan remembered to **turn off** the lights when she left the house.*

1. *Susan remembered that she needed to turn off the lights.*
2. *Susan turned off the lights*

Verbs which refer to potential events (Usually, they require infinitives)

Emotion

care *She doesn't **care to run** in the afternoons because it is too hot.*

desire *Her **desire to finish** by 5:00 p.m. was accomplished since she had two other accountants to help her close the books.*

hate *Susan hates **to study** writing.*

like *Leon likes **to fish** at the lake.*

love *I love **to hike** in the woods.*

regret *The police officer said, "I regret to say that your son has been involved in a serious car accident."*

yearn *I yearn **to nap** during the summer.*

Choice or Intent

agree *Pat agreed **to go** after the class ended.*

choose *Harry chose **to leave** after the movie.*

decide *The Judge decided **to free** the inmate from the prison.*

expect *Experienced writers expect **to revise** their essays.*

hope *Sasha hopes **to become** an actress someday.*

intend *The vacationers intended **to stay** longer, but because of the hurricane they had to cut their vacation a week short.*

need *Some parents need **to discipline** their children more, especially when they children act out at other people's homes.*

plan *We plan **to play** tennis later on today.*

prefer *Paul prefers **to do** his homework at night.*

prepare *I will prepare **to pack** while you go to buy the groceries.*

propose *The president has proposed **to hire** three more workers for Human Resources.*

refuse *My friend refused **to talk** to his brother for three months.*

want *Rie wants **to visit** with her family next week.*

wish *My father wished **to have** all his children home for the holidays.*

Initiation, Completion, Incompletion

begin *The campers began **to hike** up the mountain.*

cease *Mosquitoes cease **to be** a nuisance after the first frost.*

commence *The employees will commence **to take** a break when the alarm buzzes.*

fail *The worker failed **to complete** his homework by the start of class.*

get *We will get **to eat** when the programs ends.*

hesitate *Please do not hesitate **to come** by my office should you need help with your writing assignment.*

manage *Alisa could not manage **to complete** her math homework.*

neglect *Brian neglected **to tell** his friends that he would not be able to take them to the beach.*

start *The students will start **to work** on their research papers soon.*

try *It is important for a person to try **to lose** weight if he or she is obese.*

undertake *The surgery undertaken **to remove** the cancerous brain tumor was remarkably effective, the patient having completely recovered.*

Mental Process

forget	<i>Do not forget to turn off the stove when you are done cooking.</i>
know	<i>Most college students know to study extensively before taking a history exam.</i>
how	<i>Sam does not know how to change a flat tire on his car.</i>
learn	<i>To pass the TOEFL exam, a student should learn to speak as much English as possible.</i>
remember	<i>I will remember to bring my camera when we travel to Thailand.</i>

Request and Promise

demand	<i>Steven demanded to be at the party with his friends even though his parents refused.</i>
offer	<i>The salesperson has offered to give him a \$5,000 discount if he purchases the car today.</i>
promise	<i>Helen promised to return home from work by 8:00 p.m.</i>
swear	<i>Paulina swears to love her boyfriend for better or for worse.</i>
threaten	<i>The Hurricane threatened to smash into the Louisiana coastline.</i>
vow	<i>Israeli troops vowed to retaliate against the suicide bombings that occurred last week.</i>

Intransitives

appear	<i>The lawyer appears to be speechless after the presentation of the defense lawyer.</i>
happen	<i>Maki happens to excel in her composition skills.</i>
seem	<i>It seemed to be a good restaurant from the outside.</i>
tend	<i>I tend to be nervous when I speak in front of large groups.</i>

Miscellaneous

afford	<i>Sarah can not afford to live by the beach because the rent is too expensive.</i>
arrange	<i>Government officials have arranged to meet with Microsoft Corporation next week.</i>
claim	<i>Carol claims to know where her friend went.</i>
continue	<i>Zachary will continue to study at the University of California, Los Angeles.</i>

- pretend *George pretends **to act** like he knows a lot, but in reality he doesn't.*
- wait *The manager will wait **to see** if more workers show up she he calls a meeting.*

Verbs which refer to actual events (Usually they require gerunds)

Initiation, Completion and Incompletion

- anticipate *They anticipate **moving out** of California in the fall.*
- avoid *Athletes should avoid **exercising** when it is really smoggy.*
- begin *Workers began **constructing** the library last week.*
- cease *Fortunately, the spectators ceased **fighting** after the riot police arrived.*
- complete *The authorities completed **allocating** funds to the different school districts.*
- delay *Organizers will delay **opening** the museum until next month.*
- finish *John finished **taking** his exam, after which he decided to play pool in the student union.*
- get *After three hours, I got done **washing** my three cars.*
- give up *The police gave up **negotiating** with the bank robber and shot him in self-defense.*
- postpone *Tom will postpone **going** on his trip until his father recovers from his illness.*
- quit *It was hard, but I quit **smoking** three weeks ago and haven't smoked a cigarette since.*
- risk *You should not risk **gambling** too much money in Las Vegas, for you will most likely loose every penny of it.*
- start *I will start **running** with the Tupelo High School Cross Country Team in September.*
- stop *Using nicotine patches, Takahiro will try to stop **smoking**.*
- try *Mao will try **talking** to George to see if he will stop being angry at Frank.*

Communication

- admit *Alex admits **paying** two little for the car he bought from his grandmother.*
- advise *Jimmy advises **reading** two books a month as a way to improve English language skills.*
- deny *The defendant denied **being** at the scene of the murder on May 12, 2003.*
- discuss *The teacher and the students discussed **going** on a field trip to New York City.*
- encourage *Mark encouraged **discussing** Hank's drinking problem with his parents.*
- mention *Jake didn't mention **missing** class yesterday.*
- recommend *The auto mechanic recommended **changing** the tires on my truck, which would amount to \$450.00.*
- report *Journalists reported **going** to a game and **seeing** a riot.*
- suggest *The teacher suggested **the students' going** to a play next week as a way for them to improve their acting skills.*
- urge *Safety authorities urge **slowing** to a speed of 25 miles per hour in residential neighborhoods.*

Continuing Action

- continue *He continued **going** to the church for two years before he moved to another city.*
- can't help *Claiming that it was love at first sight, Lance can't help **falling** in love with Denise.*
- practice *Every day for three weeks, Jane practiced **playing** the piano.*
- involve *Painting the room involved **putting up** masking tape, **laying down** plastic sheets, and **using** a roller and paint brush to paint the walls.*
- keep *The children kept **playing** soccer for almost two hours.*
- keep on *They will keep on **swimming** in the pool, at least until it gets dark.*
- stand *For nearly three hours, the bride and the groom stood **shaking** guests hands.*

Emotion

- appreciate *I appreciate **your taking** me to the movies the day before yesterday.*
- dislike *I dislike **going** to parties when I do not know anyone there.*
- enjoy *We enjoy **going** to Disneyland so much that we have bought an annual pass for three years in a row.*
- hate *Patricia hates **skiing** because she broke her leg the last time she went.*
- like *Michael likes **running** on trails in the mountains.*
- love *Kent loves **playing gold** in Palm Springs.*
- mind *I mind **your smoking** in the office.*
- don't mind *I do not mind **your smoking** if you do it outside of the office.*
- miss *Satoshi misses **seeing** his family since he left Tokyo, Japan.*
- prefer *I prefer **attending** classes in the morning and afternoons.*
- regret *She regrets **working** so much since it prevents me from spending time with her family.*
- can't stand *He can't stand **eating** spinach.*
- resent *The student resents **failing** his class since not passing the class will prevent him from graduating in the spring.*
- resist *Mark resisted **urgings** from his friends, who wanted him to drive them to Los Angeles.*
- tolerate *Mr. Thompson doesn't **tolerate** chewing gum in class.*

Mental Process

- anticipate *He did not anticipate **feeling** so adamant about not letting his son go overseas to study.*
- consider *To protect the paint, you should consider **waxing** your car twice a year.*
- forget *Having the memory of an elephant, I did not forget **talking** to you even though it's been more than five years.*
- imagine *I imagine **taking** six classes in one semester would be very difficult.*
- recall *Do you recall **leaving** the keys on the front desk?*

- remember *Leah remembers calling her boss to tell him that she wouldn't make it to work.*
- see *I saw them **playing** baseball at the park two weeks ago.*
- can't see *I can't see anyone **swimming** in the ocean in the middle of the winter.*
- understand *Because his mother was killed in an automobile accident, I understand his **leaving** the house and his not wanting to talk to anyone right now.*

Verbs which take infinitives or gerunds

- attempt *She **attempted** to fix/fixing the computer printer.*
- begin *The workers began **to demonstrate/demonstrating** as soon as the layoffs were announced.*
- continue *Otto continued **to work/working** at the factory even though he had won \$20,000,000 in the California Lottery.*
- hate *My friends hates **to work/working** on the weekends.*
- like *Bob likes **to spend/spending** as much time with his family as possible.*
- love *We love **to go/going** on month-long vacations, but they always seem to go by so quickly.*
- neglect *Mary neglected **to tell/telling** everyone that she would come to work two hours late.*
- prefer *Wendy preferred **to stay/staying** at home and **to watch/watching** television instead of going out with her friends to the mall.*
- regret *Zack regretted **to speed/speeding** on the freeway now that the Department of Motor Vehicles has suspended his driver's license.*
- can't stand *I can't stand **to drive/driving** compact cars.*
- start *Tomorrow, students will start **to research/researching** their topic in the library.*

Nouns which can take infinitives as complements

advice	<i>Her advice to drive within the speed limit was heeded.</i>
appeal	<i>The defense lawyer's appeal to plea bargain the murder case was rejected by the prosecuting lawyer.</i>
command	<i>The general commanded the soldiers to form a battle line.</i>
decision	<i>A decision to reduce taxes for small businesses was put into law.</i>
desire	<i>The desire of the students to postpone the exam for two weeks was accepted by the professor.</i>
instruction	<i>The teacher gave the students instruction to review the assigned readings before the essay exam.</i>
motivation	<i>Among most people, there is a motivation to get a secure job upon graduation from college.</i>
opportunity	<i>An opportunity to study abroad is a chance of a lifetime for some students.</i>
order	<i>The order to impose a dawn-to-dusk curfew was put into effect.</i>
permission	<i>Permission to start the exam was given by the teacher.</i>
plan	<i>Our plan to buy our plane tickets after we finish shopping today did not work out.</i>
possibility	<i>There is a possibility to find me in the student lounge if you come by around 5:00 p.m.</i>
preparation	<i>The preparation to set up the church for the wedding was planned.</i>
proposal	<i>School administrators approved the proposal to allow students to go to lunch off campus.</i>
recommendation	<i>A recommendation to waive the TOEFL for Hiroshi was granted by the university.</i>
refusal	<i>The professor's refusal to change the student's final grade made him angry.</i>
reminder	<i>The parents gave their children a reminder to put on sunscreen before going out into the hot sun.</i>

- request *California Highway Patrol made a request for motorists **to tune-up** their automobiles before traveling during the hot summer months.*
- requirement *College admissions officials have made it a requirement for freshman **to take** English Composition 101 during the first year of college.*
- suggestion *Since the student was upset about the passing away of her father, the professor made a suggestion for her **to talk** to a counselor.*
- tendency *She has a tendency **to become bored** when she attends classes which are longer than two hours.*
- wish *My only wish is for my parents **to have** a peaceful and prosperous retirement.*

Adjectives which take infinitive complements

- ahead *Mark went ahead **to see** where they would camp for the night.*
- amazed *The tourists were amazed **to see** how big and majestic the Grand Canyon was.*
- anxious *He was anxious **to return** home **to see** his parents.*
- apt *The calculus exam is apt to be difficult.*
- ashamed *She was ashamed **to admit** that she had been dating her husband's best friend.*
- bound *It is bound **to be** a beautiful day today.*
- careful *He is always careful **to cook** his hamburgers thoroughly.*
- certain *Real estate is certain **to increase** in value over the next four years.*
- content *Simply put, he is content **to be** at home spending time with his family.*
- delighted *We are delighted **to have** you as a visitor in our home.*
- determined *Everyone is determined **to protest** the tuition hikes for the upcoming school year.*
- disappointed *I am too disappointed **to tell** my parents that I am getting divorced.*
- eager *She is eager **to see** the new movie which is coming out in June.*

eligible	<i>Since she has reached the age of 21, Jane is eligible to gamble in Las Vegas.</i>
fortunate	<i>A person is fortunate to have good health, especially when he or she is elderly.</i>
glad	<i>I am glad to see that everyone is having a good time at the party.</i>
happy	<i>Blondie was happy to get the gold coins with of worth of more than \$200,000.00.</i>
hesitant	<i>He is hesitant to drive his car in the mountains during the winter because of all the snowfall.</i>
liable	<i>The car is liable to break down if it is not taken to a auto repair shop.</i>
likely	<i>It is likely to rain later on today.</i>
lucky	<i>We are lucky to live in Southern California since there is so little rain here.</i>
pleased	<i>I am pleased to tell you that you have won a prize.</i>
proud	<i>They are proud to have him as their son.</i>
ready	<i>The neighborhood is ready to begin a crime watch program.</i>
reluctant	<i>Fearing that the cancer will spread to other parts of the body, the doctors are reluctant to operate.</i>
sad	<i>I am sad to inform you that you have lost your scholarship.</i>
shocked	<i>The mother was shocked to hear that her three sons had died in battle.</i>
sorry	<i>She was sorry to see her daughters go to school.</i>
surprised	<i>Indeed, I was surprised to find out that I had gotten a 250 on the TOEFL.</i>
upset	<i>Mary was upset to hear that her car had been stolen.</i>