

Intermediate English Grammar

Chapter 5 **Gerund & Infinitive (part 2)**

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GERUNDS

Gerunds are used as the objects of certain verbs.

Common verbs that are followed by gerunds are given in the list below.

enjoy	delay	mention	quit (give up)
appreciate	consider	suggest	finish (get through)
mind	discuss	avoid	postpone (put off)
stop	deny	imagine	keep (keep on)

INFINITIVE

An infinitive is to + the simple form of a verb.

Some verbs are followed immediately by an infinitive, as listed below:

hope	intend	arrange	want
plan	agree	manage	need
promise	offer	ask	deserve
decide	refuse	expect	would like

REMEMBER

I remember doing something = I did it and I now I remember this.

I remembered to do something = I remembered that I had to do it, so I did it.

You remember doing something after you have done it.

You remember to do something before you do it.

For example:

For example:

- I know I locked the door. I clearly remember locking it. (= I locked it, and now I remember this)
- He could remember driving along the road just before the accident, but he couldn't remember the accident itself.

- I remembered to lock the door, but I forgot to shut the windows. (= I remembered that I had to lock it, and so I locked it)
- I must remember to pay the electricity bill. (= I must not forget to pay it)

REGRET

I regret doing something = I did it and now I'm sorry about it:

For example:

- I now regret saying what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
- Do you regret not going to college?

1 regret to say / to tell you / to inform you = I'm sorry that 1 have to say (etc.):

For example:

- (from a formal letter) We regret to inform you that your application has been unsuccessful.

GO ON

Go on doing something = continue with the same thing:

For example:

- The president paused for a moment and then went on talking.
- We need to change. We can't go on living like this.

Go on to do something = do or say something new:

For example:

- After discussing the economy, the president then went on to talk about foreign policy.

The following verbs can be followed by -ing or to ... with no difference of meaning:

begin	start	continue	intend	bother
-------	-------	----------	--------	--------

So you can say:

- It started raining, *or* It started to rain.
- Andy intends buying a house, *or* Andy intends to buy ...
- Don't bother locking the door, *or* Don't bother to lock ...

Exercise

1. They denied the money, (steal)
2. I don't enjoyvery much, (drive)
3. I can't afford out tonight. I don't have enough money, (go)
4. Has it stopped yet? (rain)
5. We were unlucky to lose the game. We deserved (win)
6. Why do you keep me questions? Can't you leave me alone?
(ask)
7. Please stop me questions! (ask)

Exercise

1. They denied the money, (steal)
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(ask)
7. Please stop me questions! (ask)

Need *to* ... and need *-ing*

I need to do something = it is necessary for me to do it:

- I need to get more exercise.
- He needs to work harder if he wants to make progress,
- I don't need to come to the meeting, do I?

Something needs doing = it needs to be done:

- My phone needs charging. (= it needs to be charged)
- Do you think this jacket needs cleaning? (= ... needs to be cleaned)

Exercise

Continue each sentences with need(s) + one of the following verbs:

begin	start	continue	intend	bother
-------	-------	----------	--------	--------

1. This jacket is dirty. It
2. The room isn't very nice. It
3. The grass is very long. It
4. The screws are loose. They
5. The bin is full. It

Exercise

Continue each sentences with need(s) + one of the following verbs:

begin	start	continue	intend	bother
-------	-------	----------	--------	--------

1. This jacket is dirty. It needs cleaning.
2. The room isn't very nice. It needs painting.
3. The grass is very long. It needs to be cut.
4. The screws are loose. They need tightening.
5. The bin is full. It needs to be emptied.

LIKE / LOVE / HATE

When you talk about repeated actions, you can use -ing or to ... after these verbs.

So you can say:

- Do you like getting up early? *or* Do you like to get up early?
- Stephanie hates flying, *or* Stephanie hates to fly.
- I love meeting people, *or* I love to meet people.
- I don't like being kept waiting, *or* ... like to be kept waiting.
- I don't like friends calling me at work, *or* ... friends to call me at work.

...but

We use -ing (not to ...) when we talk about a situation that already exists (or existed).

For example:

- Paul lives in Berlin now. He likes living there. (He likes living in Berlin = He lives there and he likes it)
- Do you like being a student? (You are a student - do you like it?)

There is sometimes a difference between
I like to do and *I like doing*:

I like doing something = I do it and I enjoy it:

- I like cleaning the kitchen. (= I enjoy it.)

I like to do something = I think it is a good thing to do, but I don't necessarily enjoy it:

- It's not my favourite job, but I like to clean the kitchen as often as possible.

Would like / would love / would hate / would prefer

Would like / would love etc. are usually followed by to ... :

- I'd like (= I would like) to go away for a few days.
- Would you like to come to dinner on Friday?
- I wouldn't like to go on holiday alone.
- I'd love to meet your family.
- Would you prefer to have dinner now or later?

I would like to have done something = I regret now that I didn't or couldn't do it:

- It's a shame we didn't see Anna when we were in London. I would like to have seen her again.
- We'd like to have gone away, but we were too busy at home.

Exercise

Complete each sentence with a verb in the correct form, -ing or to
In one sentence either form is possible.

1. It's good to visit other places - I enjoy
2. 'Would you like down?' 'No, thanks. I'll stand.
3. I'm not quite ready yet. Would you mind a little longer?
4. When I was a child, I hated to bed early.
5. When I have to catch a train, I'm always worried that I'll miss it. So I like to the station in plenty of time.
6. I enjoy busy. I don't like it when there's nothing to do.
7. I would love to your wedding, but I'm afraid it isn't possible.

Exercise

Complete each sentence with a verb in the correct form, -ing or to
In one sentence either form is possible.

1. It's good to visit other places - I enjoy **traveling**.
2. 'Would you like **to sit** down?' 'No, thanks. I'll stand.'
3. I'm not quite ready yet. Would you mind **waiting** a little longer?
4. When I was a child, I hated **going / to go** to bed early.
5. When I have to catch a train, I'm always worried that I'll miss it. So I like **to get** to the station in plenty of time.
6. I enjoy **being** busy. I don't like it when there's nothing to do.
7. I would love **to come** to your wedding, but I'm afraid it isn't possible.

Thank you!

REFERENCES

Murphy, Raymond & Smalzer, William. *Grammar in use, Intermediate*. Cambridge U. Press, 2019.

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