



B1 - “To swim or swimming?”

Learn to use gerunds and infinitives

What do you like doing in your spare time?



What is the difference between the two sentences below?

1. “I enjoy reading books.”

2. “I want to read a book.”



What is the difference between the two sentences below?

1. “I enjoy reading books.”
[talks about the general preference of reading multiple books.]

2. “I want to read a book.”
[talks about the desire to read one book.]



Gerund VS. Infinitive ...

A gerund is the -ing form of a verb and acts like a noun.

“I enjoy reading.”

“She suggested going home.”

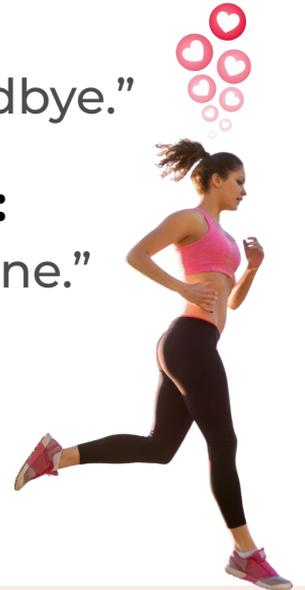
An infinitives is “to + base verb” and can show a goal, intention, or a special situation.

“I want to read.”

“He decided to go home.”

When do we use a gerund?

1. **After certain verbs: “enjoy”, “avoid”, “suggest”, “finish”, “mind”:**
“I enjoy reading.” / “She avoided talking to him.”
2. **After prepositions: “about”, “after”, “before”, “in”, “of”, “without”, “for”:**
“He is good at drawing.” / “They left without saying goodbye.”
3. **To talk about habits, routines, or general likes/dislikes:**
“I love jogging in the morning.” / “She hates waiting in line.”



When do we use an infinitive?

1. **After certain verbs: “want”, “plan”, “decide”, “hope”, “agree”, “learn”, “need”:**

“I want to travel next year.” / “They decided to leave early.”

2. **After adjectives:**

“It’s important to study.” / “She was happy to help.”

3. **To express purpose, intention, or special circumstances:**

“He studies hard to pass the test.” / “I called to say thank you.”



Be careful!

Some verbs can be followed by both (gerund or infinitive), but the meaning may change:

“I stopped smoking.” *[I quit smoking.]*

“I stopped to smoke.” *[I paused another activity in order to smoke.]*



Here are a few common verbs that are followed by gerunds, infinitives, or both.

Gerund verbs:

enjoy, avoid, suggest

Infinitive verbs:

want, decide, plan,
need

Both (change in meaning):

remember, stop, try,
forget



Quick matching task: Match verbs with correct forms:
Example: “enjoy” → “swimming”

Complete each sentence with the correct form: gerund or infinitive

1. I forgot (lock) the door this morning.
2. She promised (help) me with my homework.
3. He enjoys (play) the guitar.
4. We decided (go) to the beach.
5. They suggested (try) the new restaurant.



Complete the sentences using the negative form of either a gerund or an infinitive

1. She prefers _____ late to work. (*not / arrive*)
2. I try _____ junk food during the week. (*not / eat*)
3. He avoided _____ about the problem. (*not / talk*)
4. They decided _____ to the noisy club. (*not / go*)
5. We enjoy _____ television every night. (*not / watch*)
6. It's important _____ your homework. (*not / forget*)
7. I suggested _____ the movie—it's too scary. (*not / watch*)

Complete the questions with the correct form of the verb in brackets

1. Do you enjoy _____ in the morning? (*run*)
2. What do you plan _____ this weekend? (*do*)
3. Have you ever avoided _____ someone's question? (*answer*)
4. Is there anything you've decided _____ lately? (*change*)
5. What do you hope _____ before the end of the year? (*achieve*)
6. What do you suggest _____ when someone feels stressed? (*do*)
7. *Is there something you stopped _____ recently?* (*eat*)



Thank you for your support.

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