



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

*“I want to read.”*

*“He decided to go home.”*

## Another way to look at the differences:

- Gerunds look backwards or describe real experiences.
- To infinitives look forwards and describe goals or intentions.

# Gerunds

Used when the verb acts like a **thing**, **activity**, or **experience**.

**Think: real, familiar, experienced.**

**Common uses:**

**1. After certain verbs:**

a. *I enjoy swimming. | She avoids driving at night.*

**2. After prepositions:**

a. *He is good at speaking English.*

**3. As a subject:**

a. *Learning English takes time.*

Use the **gerund** when talking about an activity in general or something you experience.



# To infinitives

Used when talking about **purpose**, **intention**, or **future direction**.

**Think: goal, plan, decision.**

**Common uses:**

**1. After certain verbs:**

a. *I want to go to the shop. | They decided to leave early.*

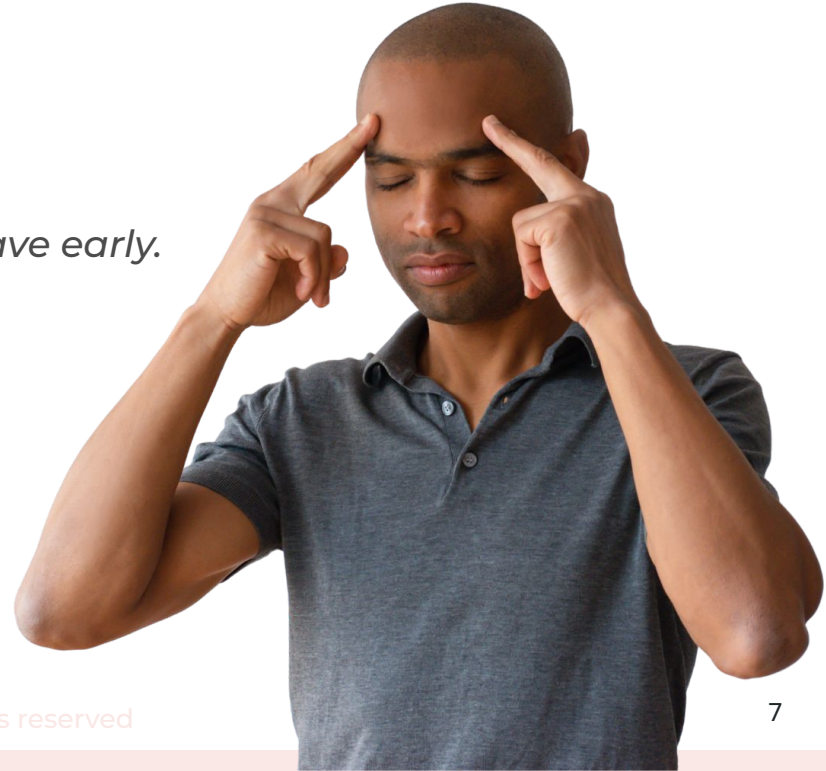
**2. To show purpose:**

a. *She studies to pass the exam.*

**3. As a subject:**

a. *Learning English takes time.*

Use a **'to infinitive'** when you are talking about something you want, plan, or intend to do.



# 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)*



# HearSay Learn audio activities

This next section of activities is based on a **HearSay Learn audio track**. These slides include the **HearSay Learn logo** in the top-right corner so you can easily identify them.

## Want to Listen to the Audio?

To access the track:

- Click the shareable link on the slide, or
- Scan the QR code using your mobile phone.

This will open the **HearSay Learn WhatsApp** application, where you can listen to the audio as many times as you like.

## Prefer Not to Use **HearSay Learn**?

No problem. If you'd rather skip the audio-based tasks, simply move ahead to the slides without the **HearSay Learn logo**. All essential practice activities are still included.

## **Elucidated English** x **HearSay Learn**

**Elucidated English** is an official partner of **HearSay Learn**.

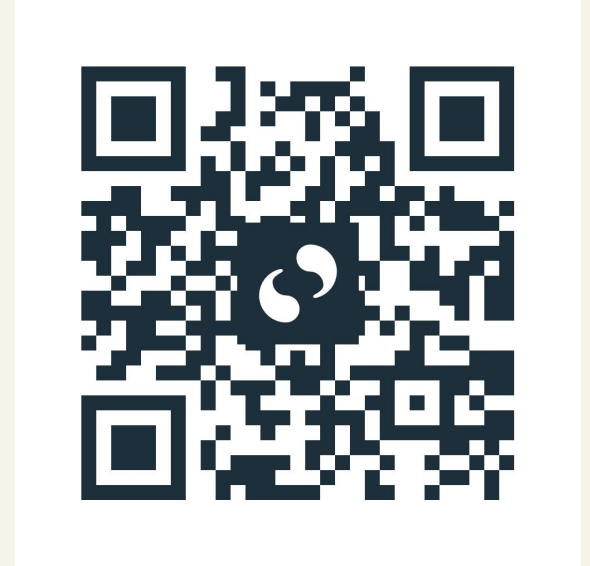
If you enjoy the audio experience, **HearSay Learn** offers affordable subscription options that allow you to:

- Listen to tracks on repeat
- Improve your pronunciation
- Strengthen listening skills naturally
- Train your ear in real conversational English





# “Making Weekend Plans”



[Click here to listen to the conversation \(or scan the QR code, above\)](#)

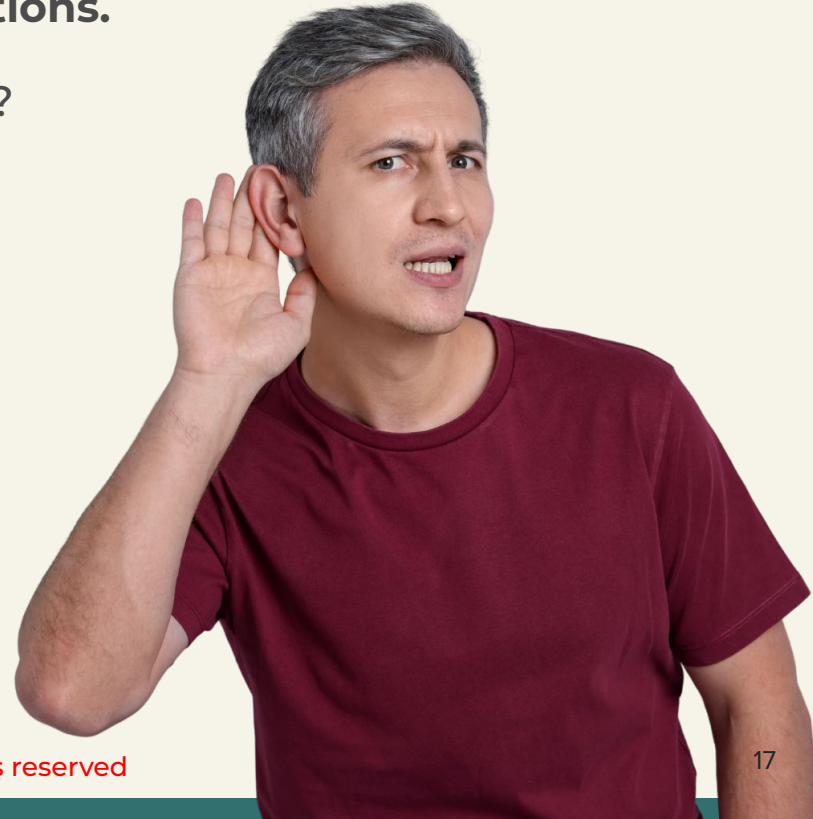
\*\*\* *British accent*

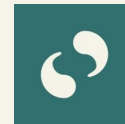


# Listening for detail

**Instruction: Listen again and answer the questions.**

1. Why does Jack avoid going out sometimes?
2. What type of restaurant do they choose?
3. What time does Sophie finish work?
4. What does Jack remind Sophie to do?
5. When will Sophie book the table?



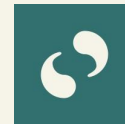


# Spot the form

**Instruction: Listen again and underline or write the verbs in the correct column.**

Gerunds	To infinitives





# Meaning match

**Instruction: Match the sentence halves.**

I usually avoid ...	trying something new
I' love to ...	go to the restaurant
I remember ...	reading the reviews
I'm looking forward to ...	going out when it's busy





# Transformation practice

**Instruction: Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb.**

1. I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) out with my friends.
2. She decided \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) at home.
3. He avoids \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to crowded places.
4. We plan \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) a new café.





# Personalisation

**Instruction: Answer the questions.**

1. Do you enjoy going out on weekends? Why/Why not?
2. What do you usually avoid doing?
3. What do you want to try this month?
4. What are you looking forward to doing?





**Thank you for your support.**

---

**YouTube: @elucidatedenglish**