III

Gerunds and infinitives

Gerunds and infinitives are verb forms that have specific functions in sentences. They're used as nouns, subjects, objects, and complements. Let's dive into their definitions, forms, and how they're used.

Gerunds: A gerund is the -ing form of a verb that functions as a noun in a sentence. It is created by adding -ing to the infinitive form of the verb. Gerunds can be used as subjects, objects, and complements.

Form: Verb Infinitive + -ing



Examples:

- **Swimming** is good exercise.
- She enjoys **singing**.
- Her favourite activity is **dancing**.

Usage:
Subject of a sentence: Singing in the shower is his daily routine.
After certain verbs (like, dislike, enjoy, avoid, consider, etc.): They avoid eating junk food.
After prepositions: She's good at solving problems.
After phrasal verbs: I need to give up smoking

Infinitives: An infinitive is the base form of a verb preceded by "to." Infinitives can function as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. They can be used as subjects, objects, and complements

Form: to + infinitive form of the verb



Examples:

- **To learn** a new language requires dedication.
- She has a book **to read**.
- He works hard **to succeed**.

Usage:
Subject of a Sentence: To travel is my dream.
Object of a Verb: She wants to learn how to dance.
Object of a Noun: He has the desire to help others.
After Certain Verbs (want, need, plan, hope, etc.): They plan to visit Europe next year.
After Adjectives: She's too tired to continue.
After Some Nouns: It's an opportunity to grow.

Note:

Some verbs can be followed by both gerunds and infinitives, with a change in meaning:

Example:

- "I stopped **reading** the book." (Stopped a current activity)
- "I stopped **to read** the book." (Stopped in order to read the book)

Certain verbs have fixed patterns, meaning they are always followed by gerunds or infinitives:

Examples:

- "He **enjoys** swimming." (gerund)
- "She **promised** to call." (to + infinitive)

In summary, gerunds are verbs in their "-ing" form that function as nouns, while infinitives are the base form of verbs preceded by "to" and can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

Gerunds and infinitives exercise 1:

Choose the correct answer.

1. She enjoys _____ novels in her free time.
a) reading
b) to read

2. I need _____ a new computer soon.
a) buying
b) to buy

3. He suggested _____ a movie tonight.
a) watch
b) watching

4. She doesn't mind _____ late to work.
a) coming
b) to come

5. It's important _____ a healthy lifestyle.
a) to maintain
b) maintaining

6. He can't stand _____ early in the morning.
a) to wake up
b) waking up

7. She wanted _____ the book before watching the movie.
a) reading
b) to read

8. I'm considering _____ a new language.
a) learning
b) to learn

9. I don't have time _____ that right now.
a) do
b) to do

10. My goal is _____ a successful lawyer.
a) to become
b) becoming

Gerunds and infinitives exercise 2:

Complete the gaps in the story with either an 'infinitive', a 'to infinitive' or a 'gerund' form of the verb in brackets.



Once upon a time in a village, there lived a young shepherd named Jack. Jack loved **(1)_____ (watch)** over his flock of sheep on the hills. However, he also enjoyed **(2)_____ (play)** pranks on the villagers. One day, feeling mischievous, Jack thought of a plan. He decided **(3)_____ (shout)** loudly, "Wolf! Wolf!" The villagers, concerned for his safety, rushed to his aid. But when they arrived, Jack burst into laughter, **(4)_____ (admit)** that it was just a joke.

A few days later, a real wolf appeared. Jack panicked and shouted for help. The villagers, **(5)_____ (remember)** his previous prank, hesitated **(6)_____ (come)** to his rescue. Sadly, the wolf attacked some of his sheep.

(7) _____ (realise) the consequences of his actions, Jack regretted **(8)_____ (deceive)** the villagers. His lies had cost him dearly. From that day on, the villagers no longer trusted his cries for help. Jack had learned a valuable lesson about the importance of **(9)_____ (tell)** the truth.

Gerunds and infinitives: answer key

Grammar practice · B1 Intermediate

Where two or more answers are given, any of them is correct.

Exercise 1

1. a) reading
2. b) to buy
3. b) watching
4. a) coming
5. a) to maintain
6. b) waking up
7. b) to read
8. a) learning
9. b) to do
10. a) to become

Exercise 2

(1) watching / to watch
(2) playing
(3) to shout
(4) admitting
(5) remembering
(6) to come
(7) Realising
(8) deceiving
(9) telling