 STRUCTURES_GERUND AND INFINITIVE

A. GERUNDS

1. The gerund is used after certain verbs and verbal expressions.

ADMIT, CONFESS, DENY, APPRECIATE, AVOID, DELAY, POSTPONE, PUT OFF, DISLIKE, DETEST, ENJOY, FANCY, FINISH, QUIT, IMAGINE, CONSIDER, INVOLVE, JUSTIFY, EXCUSE, KEEP, MENTION, MISS, PRACTISE, MIND, RISK, SUGGEST, TOLERATE ...

E.g.  I detest swimming in cold water.
Can you imagine swimming in the Dead Sea?
I suggest leaving the house early.

Use the Gerund after these expressions as well:

CAN'T HELP, CAN'T STAND, IT'S NO USE, IT'S NO GOOD, IT'S WORTH (WHILE), DON'T MIND, WOULDN'T MIND, BE ACCustomed TO, BE USED TO.

E.g. I can't help thinking it would be fun to live on a houseboat.
Well, it's no use trying to persuade me, I can't stand going on the water.

2. With prepositions.

If a verb follows a preposition the Gerund forms must be used.

E.g. What about swimming to the island and back before lunch?
After casting anchor the sailors went ashore.

3. As the subject of a sentence.

E.g. Swimming every day is marvellous exercise and good for the figure.
No smoking; no parking; talking is not allowed.

The Perfect Gerund is formed with 'HAVING' followed by the Past Participle.

E.g. The Boys’ Club was very proud of having won the prize last year.

The Passive Gerund is formed with 'BEING' or 'HAVING BEEN' followed by the Past Participle.

E.g. I resent being made to swim two lengths of the baths directly after lunch.
The wreckage of the pirate ship rose to the surface two days after having been sunk.

Adapted from: Thomson & Martinet, A Practical English Grammar, R. Murphy, English Grammar in Use.
B. INFINITIVES

1. Certain verbs are followed by ‘TO’ + Infinitive, others by the Infinitive without ‘TO’, and others by an object + ‘TO’ + Infinitive.

Verbs followed by ‘TO’ + Infinitive.

AFFORD, AGREE, AIM, APPEAR, ARRANGE, BOTHER, CARE, CHANCE, CLAIM, CONSENT, DECIDE, DEMAND, ENDEAVOUR, FAIL, GET (=REACH), HAPPEN, HAVE (=BE OBLIGED), HESITATE, HOPE, LEARN, LONG, MANAGE, OFFER, PREPARE, PRETEND, PROCEED, PROMISE, REFUSE, RESOLVE, SEEK, SEEM, SWEAR, TEND, THREATEN, TROUBLE, UNDERTAKE, VOLUNTEER.

E.g. I can’t afford to buy a new boat this year.
He arranged to meet his friend at the boathouse.

Verbs followed by either ‘TO’ + Infinitive or object + ‘TO’ + Infinitive.

ASK, BEG, EXPECT, HATE, HELP, INTEND, LIKE, LOVE, MEAN, PREFER, WANT, WISH. (some of them also take a Gerund)

E.g. I asked to lease the room.
He asked me to lease the room.

Verbs followed by object + ‘TO’ + Infinitive.

ADVISE, ALLOW, COMPEL, ENCOURAGE, FORBID, INSTRUCT, INVITE, OBLIGE, ORDER, PERMIT, REMIND, REQUEST, TEACH, TELL, TEMPT, URGE, WARN.

E.g. Children should be encouraged to swim as early as possible.
He ordered us to abandon ship as it capsized.

Modal verbs are followed by Infinitive without ‘TO’.

WILL, SHALL, SHOULD, WOULD, CAN, DO, MAY, MUST.

E.g. He will go to the harbour in the morning.
The children mustn’t swim in that lake, it’s too dirty.

Exception: OUGHT TO

Verbs followed by object + Infinitive without ‘TO’.

LET, MAKE, HELP. (also with ‘TO’)

E.g. He let me steer the boat up the river.
The Captain made me sit down as the boat

Adapted from: Thomson & Martinet, A Practical English Grammar, R. Murphy, English Grammar in Use.
2. **Infinitive of purpose.**
   To + infinitive /in order to + infinitive /so as to + infinitive indicate the reason why somebody does something.
   
   E.g.  
   *He went to meet his friend off the boat.*
   *He paused on the way to the harbour to take a rest.*

3. **Infinitive after adjectives.**

   AMAZED, ANGRY, ASHAMED, ASTONISHED, BEWILDERED, DELIGHTED, DISAPPOINTED, DISGUSTED, EXCITED, GLAD, HAPPY, OVERJOYED, PLEASED, PROUD, SAD, SHOCKED, SORRY, SURPRISED, UPSET, EASY, DIFFICULT, HARD...

   E.g.  
   *I was angry to find my boat had drifted away on the tide.*
   *They were delighted to see their father standing on the deck.*
   *It is easy/difficult to remember.*

4. **Infinitive with ‘too’ / ‘enough’**

   E.g.  
   *It was too late to save the drowning boy as he had gone down for the third time.*
   *He was quick enough to stop the paddle floating away.*

   The Perfect Infinitive is formed with the Infinitive of ‘HAVE’ + a Past Participle;

   E.g.  
   *I ought to have gone to the bank but I forgot.*
   *She needn’t have worried about the time; her friend was late also.*

C. **VERBS FOLLOWED BY GERUND OR INFINITIVE.**

   Certain verbs can be followed by either Gerund or Infinitive, sometimes with a different meaning.

   ADVISE, ALLOW, DESERVE, DREAD, FORGET, HATE, LIKE, LOVE, MEAN, NEED, PERMIT, PREFER, PROPOSE, RECOMMEND, REGRET, REMEMBER, REQUIRE, START, STOP, TRY, WANT.

   Certain expressions and the phrasal verb ‘GO ON’ can also be used with either Gerund or Infinitive.

   CAN’T BEAR, USED TO, BE AFRAID OF, GO ON.

1. **Verbs expressing feelings or attitudes.**

   LIKE, LOVE, PREFER, HATE, DREAD, CAN’T BEAR, the Gerund is used when the action is thought of in a general sense.

   E.g.  
   *I like swimming in open air swimming pools.*

   An Infinitive is used when a particular action at a specific time is thought of.

   E.g.  
   *I’d like to swim in the new pool when it opens.*
2. **REMEMBER, FORGET, REGRET.**

After the verbs REMEMBER, FORGET, REGRET the Gerund is used to refer to an action which takes place before the main verb.

E.g.  
I remember telling him about the fair on Saturday.  
*(telling is the first action; remembering the second).*

The Infinitive is used to refer to an action which takes place after the main verb.

E.g.  
I'll remember to tell him about the fair when I see him.  
*(remember, first action; tell, second action).*

3. **TRY.**

‘TRY’ used with an Infinitive has the meaning of 'attempt' and implies difficulty.

E.g.  
He tried to sail across the bay but there wasn’t enough wind.

‘TRY’ used with a Gerund has the meaning of 'to make a test' and implies no difficulty.

E.g.  
He tried sailing across the bay first and then round the headland.

4. **PROPOSE.**

‘PROPOSE’ used with an Infinitive generally has the meaning of 'intend'.

E.g.  
She proposes to live on a houseboat all winter, I think she's mad.

‘PROPOSE’ used with a Gerund has the meaning of 'suggest'.

E.g.  
I propose going to the regatta on Sunday.

5. **MEAN.**

‘MEAN’ used with an Infinitive has the meaning of 'intend'.

E.g.  
I mean to find out who stole the yacht club funds.

‘MEAN’ used with a Gerund has the meaning of 'involve'.

E.g.  
I'll learn how to row even if it means practising all day.

6. **STOP.**

‘STOP’ used with an Infinitive has the meaning of 'halt', stop doing one thing to do another.

E.g.  
I stopped to speak to the Captain of the ship, as I wanted his advice.

‘STOP’ used with a Gerund has the meaning of 'cease'.

E.g.  
I stopped smoking when I started to train for the Olympics.

7. **GO ON.**

The phrasal verb ‘GO ON’ meaning 'continue' can be followed by an Infinitive implying that a new item, or the next item, is being introduced.

E.g.  
The speaker, having finished his main theme, went on to talk about minor problems of sailing.
'GO ON' followed by a Gerund implies that an existing state of affairs continues.
   E.g. The speaker went on talking about sailing although most of his audience had gone home.

8. NEED, WANT, DESERVE, REQUIRE.

The verbs NEED, WANT, DESERVE, REQUIRE, can take the Gerund but can also be followed by the Passive Infinitive, which is equivalent in meaning.
   E.g. That fairground machine needs seeing to.
        Or That fairground machine needs to be seen to.

**EXERCISES**

*Put the verb into the gerund or the infinitive:*

1) She delayed (get) out of bed.
2) He demanded (speak) to the manager.
3) I offered (help).
4) I miss (go) to the beach.
5) We postponed (do).
6) I’d hate (arrive) too late.
7) She admitted (steal) the money.
8) I chose (work) here.
9) She waited (buy) a drink.
10) I really appreciate (be) on holiday.
11) I couldn’t help (laugh).
12) It seems (be) raining.
13) I considered (move) to Spain.
14) They practised (speak).
15) Finally I managed (finish) the work.
16) I really can’t stand (wait) for the bus.
17) Unfortunately, we can’t afford (buy) a new car this year.
18) She risked (be) late.
19) I’d love (come) with you.
20) I prepared (go) on holiday