



Unit 7

What is a Gerund?

(114-202 English IV)

ภาคการศึกษาที่ 2/2554

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What is a Gerund?

A gerund is a noun made from a verb.

To make a gerund, you add "-ing" to the verb.

Form :

infinitive + -ing

Example :

- Going to parties is fun. I enjoy reading.
- Gerund is subject Gerund is object

For Example :

1. "I swim every day", the word "swim" is a verb.
2. "I like swimming", the word "swimming" is a noun.

>>> Therefore, "swimming" is a gerund. <<<

For Example :

3. "She reads several books a week", the word "read" is a verb.
4. "Reading is important", the word "reading" is a noun.

>>> Therefore, "reading" is a gerund. <<<

What is an Infinitive?

An infinitive is the basic form of the verb + "to".

Examples:

to buy, to fish, to run, to watch, to tell,
and so forth.

Example Sentences :

- ❑ "I want to swim."
- ❑ "They asked us to leave."
- ❑ "To be, or not to be – that is the question."
- ❑ "The goal is to win."



Following a verb (*gerund or infinitive*)

Both gerunds and infinitives can replace a noun as the object of a verb. Whether you use a gerund or an infinitive depends on the main verb in the sentence.

Example:

❑ I *expect* to have the report done by Friday.
[INFINITIVE]

❑ I *anticipate* having the report done by Friday.
[GERUND]

Gerund and Infinitives as direct object

Gerunds and infinitives are verb forms that can take the place of a noun in a sentence.

For Example:

- Most people *enjoy* reading.
- I *look forward to* hearing from you soon.
- She *wants* to find a job in marketing after she's graduated.

Verb + v.ing

avoid

feel like

look forward

discuss

dislike

don't mind

enjoy

practice

quit suggest

manage

forgive

finish love

understand like

☐ They love reading.



Gerunds as objects of prepositions

Gerunds can follow a preposition; infinitives cannot.

- Can you touch your toes *without* bending your knees?
- He was fined *for* driving over the speed limit.
- She got the money *by* selling the car.
- A corkscrew is a tool *for* taking corks out of bottles.

Note

Take care not to confuse the preposition "to" with an infinitive form, or with an auxiliary form such as *have to*, *used to*, *going to*

Example:

❑ He went back *to writing* his paper.

[PREPOSITION + GERUND]

❑ I *used to live* in Mexico.

[AUXILIARY + VERB]

❑ I *want to go* home.

[VERB + INFINITIVE]



Verb + to verb

agree	be sure	choose	decide
expect	hope	learn	need
plan	seem	want	wish
would like	warn	tell	refuse

□ They *hope* to arrive some time this evening.

Following an indirect object

(infinitive only)

Some verbs are followed by a pronoun or noun referring to a person, and then an infinitive. Gerunds cannot be used in this position.

Following an indirect object

remind warn order told

invite permit allow advise + object + to Verb

ask beg encourage command

For Example :

□ They *invited me to go* to the party.

Verb Object Infinitive

Verb + v. ing or to V.

begin, continue, hate, like, dislike, love,
prefer, intend

- They intend to go / going to the beach every summer.

Verb + v. ing or to V.

(difference in meaning)

forget, remember, regret, try, stop

- ❑ + v. ing = The activity or event has already happened.
- ❑ + v. = The activity has not yet happened.

Verb + v. ing or to V.

❑ I've stopped smoking.

(The activity(smoking) stops.)

❑ I've stopped to smoke a cigarette.

(The activity is the reason for stopping.)



References:

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