

THE INFINITIVE OR THE GERUND

INFINITIVE OR GERUND?

EXERCISE 1.

Complete the sentences using the infinitive or the gerund.

e.g. Do you like playing (PLAY) football?

1. I really want _____ (GO) on holiday as soon as possible.

2. “Do you mind me _____ (SMOKE) in the lounge?” “Of course I do! I thought you had given up _____ (SMOKE). I’m very disappointed!”
3. We are going to an Indian restaurant in Soho tomorrow night. Would you like _____ (COME) with us?
4. If I could solve this problem on my own I would never ask him _____ (HELP) me.
5. I have been trying _____ (LOSE) weight for weeks, but I haven’t been very successful. I’d better _____ (GO) on a diet.
6. My new girlfriend makes me _____ (FEEL) very special and important. I’m really happy with her.

EXERCISE 2.

Fill the gaps using the verbs in the box in the appropriate form.

GO	RENT	LOOK FOR	GO BACK
CAMP	ASK	DRIVE	BOOK
PHONE	TRY	DO	TALK

Last year my friend Barbara and I decided _____ on holiday together in July. She suggested _____ a house in Tuscany for a week and I agreed _____ the travel agent for something cheap. The lady in the agency couldn't find anything, but told me _____ the day after. I phoned Barbara and said that we could _____ to

Tuscany and _____ a campsite there instead.
“There’s no need _____ in advance, plus ... I love
_____!!”, I said. Unfortunately, my friend
disagreed and she asked me to keep on _____. I
suggested that she should _____ her travel agent
this time, but she refused _____ that, so we had an
argument on the phone and canceled our holiday. Now we
avoid _____ to each other. What a shame!

EXERCISE 3.

Decide which of these sentences are correct or incorrect in their use of the infinitive.

e.g. I am glad to hear that you have passed your exam. = correct

1. She is so happy about to meet you again.

2. It's not easy to write an essay on this subject.

3. This is the ideal place to come on holiday.

4. She has always loved the idea of to go to America.

5. Their offer to lend me money shows how much they love me.

6. I need a garage to park my car.

7. We are looking for a good book to read.

8. To form the superlative in Latin is so difficult.

9. There's nothing to eat in the fridge.

10. I don't know what to give her for her birthday.

EXERCISE 4.

Complete the following sentences using either the gerund or the infinitive.

e.g. *I enjoy... (to watch) TV.*

I enjoy watching TV.

1. I don't want to go to the mountains. I prefer _____ (to go) to the seaside.
2. They don't want _____ (to go) to school.
3. Stop _____ (to smoke)!
4. She likes _____ (to read) romantic novels.
5. Paul refuses _____ (to study) maths.

6. I've decided _____ (to leave) this country.

7. She managed _____ (to get) a better job.

8. Mary can't afford _____ (to buy) a new car.

9. I learnt _____ (to play) the piano when I was a
child.

10. Continue _____ (to work). Do not waste your
time!

EXERCISE 5.

Complete the following sentences using the gerund or the infinitive forms of the verb in brackets.

e.g. *I admitted _____ (steal) the sweets from the newsagent's.*

I admitted stealing the sweets from the newsagent's.

1. I learnt _____ (play) the guitar when I was a child.
2. He isn't accustomed to _____ (speak) English.
He finds it difficult.
3. We have forgotten how _____ (spell) the word correctly.

4. She doesn't mind _____ (do) overtime.
5. I have arranged _____ (be) there for 6 o'clock.
6. They can't face _____ (attend) another meeting in English.
7. Do you fancy _____ (go) to the cinema tonight?
8. He is so dedicated to _____ (play) music. He practises every day.
9. Can you explain to me how _____ (use) this program?
10. I'm planning _____ (catch) the 10.00 am train.
11. He risked _____ (lose) all his money when he made such a stupid bet.
12. What do you suggest _____ (do) this evening?

13. She is hoping _____ (visit) America next year.
14. I would like to object to Steven _____ (have) time off next week.
15. I've resigned myself to _____ (work) a lot in this new job.
16. Keep on _____ (talk). I hate silences.
17. When I was abroad for work, I missed _____ (see) my family every day.
18. We asked them when _____ (leave) and they didn't answer.
19. I can't help _____ (forget). I've always been the same.
20. Why did you refuse _____ (speak) to her?

21. This new project will involve _____ (do) a lot of overtime.
22. I came near to _____ (hand) in my notice the other day.
23. She's looking forward to _____ (see) us.
24. He dared me _____ (steal) something from the shop.
25. I eat so many chocolates that I've decided to limit myself to _____ (eat) one bar a week.

EXERCISE 6.

Use the bare infinitive or the “-ing” form of the verb depending on the context.

e.g. I heard the bomb explode (explode).

We saw the police chasing (chase) the thief but we didn't see them apprehend him.

1. I saw him _____ (take) the book,
_____ (open) it and
_____ (tear out) a page. I was
astounded.



2. We heard them _____ (practise) for the concert as we passed by the house.
3. My father always went to every hockey game. He watched his team _____ (win) the championship.
4. He loved watching his children _____ (play) football.
Then he would take them home after the match.
5. I noticed him _____ (cross) the road but I really didn't see where he went.
6. She felt the audience's eyes _____ (follow) her as she was climbing the steps.

7. As a scientist, he was used to spending long hours observing wildlife _____ (procreating) in their habitat.
8. I smelt the toast _____ (burn).

EXERCISE 7.

Decide whether the verbs in the following expressions are correct or not. Those that are incorrect must be corrected.

e.g. Bob reported to see the crook running out of the bank.

Incorrect: Bob reported seeing the crook running out of the bank.

There's no point in carrying on with the argument!

1. Catching up with your homework may help you improve your English.

2. I'm going to take my dog to the vet for having him checked.

3. One of the boys will have to get down to admitting his guilt.

5. I'd rather to eat vegetables instead of meat.

EXERCISE 8.

Choose the correct verb to fill in the blanks with.

to play / to talk / to tell / to walk / to work / to feed / to
meet / to go

e.g. I miss playing tennis like I used to.

1. Why doesn't your father let you _____ to the party tonight?
2. Have you ever thought of _____ in the U.S.A?
3. I enjoy _____ the baby.
4. We've arranged _____ outside the theatre at 8:30.

5. Kevin told me he had better _____ Rachel the truth.

6. I'm sorry but it's not worth _____ about.

7. It's not polite _____ out on somebody like that!

EXERCISE 9.

Complete the following:

e.g. Paul (hope) (go): Paul hopes to go to New Zealand next year.

1. He often (put off) (do):

2. Yesterday I (agree) (finish):

_____.

3. Virginia (suggest) (see):

_____.

4. You should(consider) (change):

_____.

5. I want to (give up) (eat):

_____.

6. They can't (afford) (buy):

_____.

7. I (fail) (understand) why:

_____.

8. George (manage) (contact)

_____.

9. We (appreciate) you (help)

_____.

10. She (wish) (study)

11. She (intend) (clean)

12. Lisa (avoid) (call)

13. This evening I (prefer) (go)

14. I'm (fed up) with (wait)

VERBS PLUS GERUND OR INFINITIVE

EXERCISE 1.

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.

e.g. We used to go (to go) to the seaside every year

1. I am used _____ (to smoke) 20 cigarettes a day.
2. He could go on _____ (to walk) for hours.
3. She tried _____ (to do) the exercise but it was too difficult.
4. Calling her meant _____ (to admit) I was wrong.

5. I used _____ (to go) to the cinema every weekend when I was 20.
6. First we talked about our holidays. Then we went on _____ (to talk) about our friends.

EXERCISE 2.

Gerund or infinitive? Choose the correct form of the verb.

e.g. After telling me about his job, he went on talking / to talk about his family

1. She stopped to speak / speaking when I started to cry / crying
2. I remember helping / to help my mother with the housework when I was young.

3. I didn't mean hurting / to hurt you.
4. We tried to keep / keeping in touch but we are both busy.
5. They didn't remember locking / to lock the doors.
6. He stopped buying / to buy cigarettes on his way home.

LIKE

EXERCISE 1.

Complete the following with:

- LIKE + -ING form (to talk about what we like in general)
- LIKE + TO INFINITIVE (to refer to a specified future event)
- WOULD LIKE

e.g. My husband likes (be) on time.

My husband likes being on time.

1. _____ you like (live) _____ in the

U.S.A.?

No, I _____

2. We are going out. We like (be) _____ punctual.
3. I don't like (disturb) _____ you, but I just need your help now!
4. He is very tired. He (like) _____ to take a day off.
5. What _____ (drink)? I _____ (like) an orange juice, please.
6. _____ you like (come) to the beach with me tomorrow?
7. I _____ (think) about his marriage next week.
8. Paul likes (climb) _____ but doesn't like (play tennis) _____
9. They _____ (go) on an excursion on Sunday.
10. I am so hungry! _____ (join us) for dinner?

WOULD YOU MIND (NOT) + ING?

EXERCISE 1.

Complete the sentences using the prompts.

e.g. I can't stand people smoking while I'm eating. (*smoke*)

Would you mind not smoking your cigarette in front of me?

1. I can't stand spicy food.

(chilli pepper in sauce).

2. I can't stand people speaking loudly.

(shout).

3. I can't stand this kind of music.

(play).

4. I can't stand people telling me what to do.

(command).

5. I can't stand people driving fast.

(speed).

EXERCISE 2.

Rewrite the sentences using **would you (not) mind**.

e.g. Please don't talk to me like this.

Would you mind not talking to me like this?

1. Please switch off your mobile phones.

2. Please don't walk on the grass.

3. Please don't speak Italian during the lesson.

4. Please don't swear.

5. Please pay attention to what I'm saying.

6. Please check the meaning of these words in the dictionary.

7. Please don't eat so much, you're a pig.

EXPRESSING PURPOSE: THE INFINITIVE ALONE / IN ORDER TO + INFINITIVE / SO AS TO + INFINITIVE

EXERCISE 1.

Complete the following sentences with the correct form to express purpose, in the positive or negative form, as appropriate.

e.g. *She decided to go to night school to study bookkeeping.*

1. Look, I have my Group Class now, _____ (be late)

I'll have to chat to you later, sorry!

2. Helen had no chance of passing her exam because she hadn't studied, however, _____ (to let

someone down) her parents, she decided that cheating was her only alternative.

3. _____ (catch) the flight to Melbourne, Sandra had to get a taxi to the airport.
4. You cannot expect your colleagues to work overtime for you _____ home early! That's outrageous! (go).
5. Janet set her alarm 3 hours earlier than she needed to _____ (miss) her important interview in the city.

EXERCISE 2.

Join the following sentences together using an expression of purpose.

e.g. Mum, when you get to Japan, phone me. Let me know you've arrived in one piece!

*Mum, when you get to Japan, phone me so as to let me know
you've arrived in one piece!*

1. I'll start cooking dinner at 7p.m.. Give me a call if you're going to be late.

2. I'm going to have a shower tonight, instead of in the morning. I can stay in bed for an extra 20 minutes!

3. I'm going to live in Italy. I want to learn Italian and marry a Latin lover!

4. I'm going to start that new diet tomorrow. I want to look good on the beach this summer.
