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## Gerunds and *to*-infinitives

You free me from the lamp. So, I decide **to give** you three wishes.

She's so greedy! I start **regretting** my decision.

I want **to become** a genie like you so that I can get anything I want.



### Usage

Gerunds are formed by adding *-ing* to the end of a verb. *To*-infinitives are formed by putting *to* before the base form of a verb.

	Form	Example
Gerund	verb + <i>-ing</i>	Johnny finished <b>doing</b> all his homework last night.
<i>To</i> -infinitive	<i>to</i> + verb	Betty planned <b>to watch</b> a film yesterday.

A gerund, acting as nouns, can be put **before a verb**, **after a verb** or **after a preposition** in a sentence.

- e.g.** *Skipping* is a healthy activity. (as a subject)
- e.g.** Meg suggested **going** to the flower exhibition. (as an object)
- e.g.** My favourite hobby is **reading**. (as a subject complement)
- e.g.** Karen is good at **playing** tennis. (after a preposition)

A *to*-infinitive can be put **before a verb** or **after a verb** in a sentence.

- e.g.** **To pay attention** in class is important. (as a subject)
- e.g.** Ben decided **to study** Master in Physics. (as an object)
- e.g.** Your duty is **to submit** your work in time. (as a subject complement)
- e.g.** Jack invites me **to dance** with him. (as an object complement)



### Educator's Tips

**We** usually form the negative form of a gerund and a *to*-infinitive by adding *not* before them.

- e.g.** The teacher advises **not staying up** late before an exam.
- e.g.** The kids promised **not to play** online games at midnight.



## Part 1 Gerunds: before / after a verb

- A gerund can be put:

before a verb (as a subject)	after a verb (as an object)
<p>Reading <u>brings</u> me happiness.</p> <p>↑      ↑</p> <p>Gerund   Verb</p>	<p>Mum <u>suggests</u> <u>holding</u> a party for me.</p> <p>↑      ↑</p> <p>Verb   Gerund</p>

- We use gerunds after certain verbs like:

enjoy	advise	keep	miss	finish
quit	suggest	mind	dislike	practise

e.g. Anne dislikes **not having** a bath every day.

e.g. The audience clapped their hands after the singer finished **singing**.



### Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given. Each verb can be used **ONCE** only.

gamble	watch	run	communicate	have
	not shake	not eat	brush	

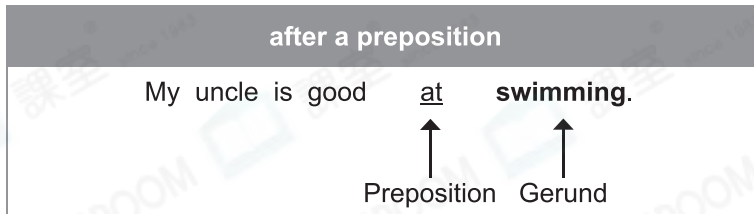
1. I regretted not shaking hands with my idol in the concert.
2. Brushing our teeth twice a day is important for oral health.
3. Johnny should quit gambling. It is such a bad habit.
4. Do you enjoy communicating with friends online?
5. The athletes are practising running for the Olympics.
6. To Leo, watching sci-fi films can help him escape from reality. In fact, he is a big fan of *Star Wars*. That's why he never misses any fans events.
7. Many experts advise not eating junk food because it is bad for our health. They suggest having a healthy and balanced diet.





## Part 2 Gerunds: after a preposition

- A gerund can be put:



- Some common prepositions used before gerunds include:

interested <u>in</u>	good / bad <u>at</u>	useful <u>for</u>	sorry <u>for / about</u>
afraid <u>of</u>	fond <u>of</u>	keen <u>on</u>	worried <u>about</u>

**e.g.** Ken is interested in **playing** the violin.

**e.g.** I feel sorry for **not helping** you.



### Exercise 2

Decide whether the underlined word in each sentence is correct or not. If it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the space provided. If it is incorrect, write the correct word.

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Dad quitted <u>smoked</u> last year.                           | 1. <u>smoking</u> |
| 2. Fred misses <u>playing</u> football with his elder brother.    | 2. _____          |
| 3. Is the chef very good at <u>cooks</u> Italian cuisine?         | 3. _____          |
| 4. Octopus cards are useful for <u>taking</u> public transport.   | 4. _____          |
| 5. <u>Meet</u> my favourite singer is the highlight of my day.    | 5. _____          |
| 6. Paul has a car. He wouldn't mind <u>drive</u> you to the mall. | 6. _____          |
| 7. We were worried about not <u>go</u> to school on time.         | 7. _____          |
| 8. <u>Reading</u> in the dark is bad for our eyes.                | 8. _____          |
| 9. Grandma was interested in <u>watched</u> Chinese operas.       | 9. _____          |
| 10. My sister was fond of <u>sing</u> karaoke.                    | 10. _____         |



## Part 3 To-infinitives

- A *to*-infinitive can be put:

after a verb (as an object)	after a verb (as an object complement)
Candy <u>promises</u> <b>to work</b> harder. ↑                    ↑ Verb      To-infinitive	Chris <u>asked</u> <u>me</u> <b>to join</b> the scouts. ↑            ↑            ↑ Verb    Object    To-infinitive
before a verb (as a subject)	after a verb (as a subject complement)
<b>To be</b> watchful <u>is</u> how we safeguard our personal belongings. ↑                    ↑ To-infinitive    Verb	One way to stay healthy <u>is</u> <b>to have</b> a balanced diet. ↑                    ↑ Verb      To-infinitive

- We use *to*-infinitives after certain verbs like:

agree	choose	decide	hope	expect
plan	promise	want	refuse	need

e.g. Harris wants **to be** a pilot when he grows up.

e.g. Amy decided **not to join** the marathon.



### Exercise 3

Underline the correct words in brackets.

- I really need ( to leave / leaving ) early today. I have an appointment at five o'clock.
- Emily is bad at ( handling / to handle ) problems with computers.
- Minnie suggests ( not to go / not going ) hiking tomorrow as there will be a typhoon.
- Is your son afraid of ( to ride / riding ) on a roller coaster?
- George has promised ( to buy / buying ) his girlfriend a diamond ring although he doesn't want to do so.
- Miss Lee expects us ( to read / reading ) more English books. Reading more is useful for ( expanding / to expand ) our vocabulary.
- The worker refused ( signing / to sign ) the unfair contract. He did not agree ( being / to be ) underpaid.
- Penny wanted ( becoming / to become ) a professional dancer. She practised ( to dance / dancing ) very hard.





## Part 4 Gerunds / To-infinitives

We can use either a gerund or a *to*-infinitive after certain verbs **with no major difference in meaning**. Examples of these verbs are:

begin	love	like	continue
hate	start		prefer



e.g. Christine loves **learning** / **to learn** Spanish.

e.g. Many teenagers prefer **not getting** / **not to get** up early on Sunday.

### Exercise 4

Abby is writing an article for the school newsletter. Complete the article with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

More theme-related vocabulary on P.128 **DSE**

Theme: Technology

Text Type: Newsletter article

### Online Shopping

Nowadays, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (shop) online is so popular with people all over the world. Why are they so fascinated about it?

There are two main good points about (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (shop) online. First, it is convenient. Many people prefer (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (not walk) for hours to find their



favourites. With online shopping, when you decide

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) something, you can simply go online and buy it. You don't need (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (pick) it up outside as it will be directly sent to your home!

Second, many people love (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (purchase) products online because they hope (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (get) good bargains. Nobody hates

(8) \_\_\_\_\_ (save) money, right? You can achieve this by

(9) \_\_\_\_\_ (compare) the prices of goods in different online shops.

To conclude, online shopping brings us a lot of advantages. Let's begin

(10) \_\_\_\_\_ (make) your first online purchase today!

## Unit Recap

Amy is writing a blog entry about a concert. Complete the blog entry by circling the correct words in brackets. Circle BOTH options for each question if both are correct.

www.blogworld.com/amychan

### Amy's Blog



Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 20XX

Topic: Sodagreen Rocks!

Hey guys! Guess what? I watched the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert of my favourite band, Sodagreen, in TAIWAN yesterday! I chose **(1)** ( not to watch / not watching ) it in Hong Kong since it is more meaningful to watch it in their hometown. I went to Taiwan with my best friend, Suki. We planned **(2)** ( to visit / visiting ) some famous tourist spots in Taiwan before the concert.

At the concert, we enjoyed **(3)** ( listening / to listen ) to the songs so much! When I listened to the rock songs, I kept **(4)** ( clapping / to clap ). Sometimes, I danced too. Suki was worried about **(5)** ( dancing / to dance ) though. She was afraid that she would fall off the stairs! Although I was very excited, I didn't scream much. I dislike **(6)** ( screaming / to scream ) in concerts as it disturbs others. And when the slow songs came, I preferred **(7)** ( sitting / to sit ) quietly to appreciate the performance. The vocal, Qing-Feng is really good at **(8)** ( singing / to sing ) songs with soft melodies. When I heard the song 'Flying Fish', I began **(9)** ( to weep / weeping ) because I was so touched! I love **(10)** ( to listen / listening ) to it when I am upset as it encourages me a lot.

In the middle of the concert, Qing-Feng started **(11)** ( to shake / shaking ) hands with the audience. I couldn't believe that I could shake hands with him! How lucky I was! It was such a memorable night. After that night, I'm sure that I'll continue **(12)** ( supporting / to support ) Sodagreen in the coming decades!