

# Unit 7

## Gerunds and infinitives



### Grammar in Context

Theme: Media and publications

Words by Theme



Read the post in a forum and answer the questions.

### Tell me about yourself!

Posted by Brandoninhk 2 weeks ago

[1] I was a magazine<sup>1</sup> reporter<sup>2</sup>. I've retired and now I'm a stationery collector.

[2] I was used to **writing** with pen and paper. Over the years, I've developed an appreciation of old-style stationery. I'm very fond of antique stationery. My job helped me **understand** the stories behind the old stationery. I interviewed<sup>3</sup> stationery makers. The interviews made me **appreciate** the details in handicrafts.

[3] I started **researching**<sup>4</sup> into stationery years ago. When I began **to collect** rare stationery, I only went **window-shopping** to discover<sup>5</sup> interesting items. My collection was small before **meeting** Mr Tse. Mr Tse is a stationery buyer. He let me **know** where to find special stationery. He advised me **to visit** Japan. He suggested that I **learn** Japanese in order to learn more about Japanese stationery. After **learning** Japanese, I went to Japan frequently. It is satisfying **to get** first-hand information<sup>6</sup> about something you love.

[4] Now, I mostly manage my website in Hong Kong. I keep looking for old stationery by talking to traders at flea markets. I don't want to give up collecting. I hope to open a stationery museum one day.



- Circle the words or phrases that are followed by gerunds and underline the words that are followed by infinitives in the last paragraph. See the examples in paragraphs 2–3.
- Complete the following statements by underlining the correct form of the verbs. Then determine if each of the statements is true (T) or false (F).

(i) The writer asked Mr Tse ( visiting / to visit ) Japan.

(ii) The writer keeps ( collecting / to collect ) old-style stationery.

## PART 1A Using gerunds

Gerunds are verbs in the *-ing* form that function as nouns. They appear after certain verbs as objects. Tenses are indicated in the main verbs before gerunds.

Verb + Gerund				
<i>admit</i>	<i>avoid</i>	<i>consider</i>	<i>deny</i>	<i>enjoy</i>
<i>finish</i>	<i>keep</i>	<i>imagine</i>	<i>involve</i>	<i>mind</i>
<i>miss</i>	<i>practise</i>	<i>resist</i>	<i>suggest</i>	<i>quit</i>

- The dietitian **suggested** *cutting down* on sugar and sodium.
- Cats **enjoy** *sitting* by heaters on cold days.
- **Have** you ever **considered** *not showing up* for the exam?

Gerunds can also be used after prepositions in the following situations:

Usages	Examples
Preposition + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The software has been installed <b>for</b> <i>protecting</i> your passwords.</li> <li>▪ Please place the ticket here <b>before</b> <i>entering</i> the venue.</li> <li>▪ Annabelle kept herself in shape <b>by</b> <i>not consuming</i> high-calorie foods.</li> </ul>
Adjective + preposition + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The screenwriter is <b>capable of</b> <i>finishing</i> the scripts ahead of schedule.</li> <li>▪ Jean is <b>committed to</b> <i>learning</i> drama acting.</li> <li>▪ My brother was <b>disappointed with</b> <i>not passing</i> the audition for the film.</li> </ul>
Phrasal verb + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The woman <b>kept on</b> <i>arguing</i> with the other passenger over a seat.</li> <li>▪ I <b>have given up</b> <i>dieting</i> as I found it not as effective as exercising.</li> <li>▪ I <b>look forward to</b> <i>seeing</i> you on my graduation day.</li> </ul>
Be / get used to + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The stuntmen <b>are used to</b> <i>performing</i> dangerous moves.</li> <li>▪ Grandpa still <b>hasn't got used to</b> <i>using</i> a smartphone.</li> </ul>

## PART 1B Positions of gerunds in a sentence

Usages	Examples
Verb + gerund (as objects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The tourists <b>went</b> <i>sightseeing</i> yesterday.</li> <li>▪ My favourite pastime <b>is</b> <i>listening</i> to music.</li> </ul>
Gerund (as subjects) + verb	<i>Exercising</i> <b>is</b> good for health.

## Let's compare

In most cases, *to* is followed by the base form of a verb. However, it is followed by a gerund when it functions as a part of a phrasal verb. The gerund functions as a noun in the object position.

<i>to</i> + base form	<i>to</i> + gerund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The writer <b>is going to</b> <i>submit</i> an article to the magazine.</li> <li>▪ The priest <b>was happy to</b> <i>announce</i> them husband and wife.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>to-infinitive</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He <b>objects to</b> <i>having to</i> rewrite the proposal.</li> <li>▪ Mother Teresa <b>devoted</b> her life <b>to</b> <i>helping</i> the disadvantaged in India.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>preposition</b></p>



## Exercise 1

You are listening to a reporter in a sharing session. Fill in the blanks using the given words.

involves    be used to    attending    imagine  
interested in    give up    by    am considering

- I've become a reporter because I'm interested in telling stories of people.
- Reporters should \_\_\_\_\_ broadcasting news instantly.
- Can you \_\_\_\_\_ not sleeping for days in order to share first-hand news with the public?
- To do this physically demanding job, I make myself stronger \_\_\_\_\_ going to the gym.
- As my job \_\_\_\_\_ gathering information through interviews, \_\_\_\_\_ seminars about interviewing techniques helps improve my job skills.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ taking a photography course too.
- Despite the challenges, I'll never \_\_\_\_\_ being a reporter.



## PART 2 Using to-infinitives

**To-infinitives are the base form of verbs after to. They appear after certain verbs. Tenses are indicated in the main verbs before to-infinitives.**

Verb + to-infinitive				
<i>afford</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>attempt</i>	<i>decide</i>	<i>hope</i>
<i>manage</i>	<i>plan</i>	<i>prepare</i>	<i>seem</i>	<i>tend</i>

- The children **agreed** *not to eat* all the sweets in one go.
- We **have promised** *to stay* in touch more often.
- **Will you learn** *to solve* problems yourself?

**Some verbs are usually followed by an object and a to-infinitive.**

Verb + Object + to-infinitive				
<i>advise</i>	<i>allow</i>	<i>ask</i>	<i>enable</i>	<i>encourage</i>
<i>invite</i>	<i>persuade</i>	<i>recommend</i>	<i>remind</i>	<i>teach</i>

- The company **advises** staff *to reuse* paper.
- Jack **has taught** his son *to play* badminton.
- My friends **recommended** me *not to waste* time watching this sequel.

**To-infinitives are also used after adjectives to describe people's feelings or opinions.**

Adjective + to-infinitive	
▪ The family was <b>glad</b> <i>to adopt</i> the puppy.	▪ We were <b>delighted</b> <i>to hear</i> that you were getting married.



## Exercise 2.1

Complete the highlights of a sport programme on TV. Fill in the blanks using the given words.

delighted    planned    keen    hoped    invited  
encouraged    to play    to recharge    to take

- We planned to feature local athletes in our special programme last weekend.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate the achievement of the local athletes at the Olympics.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ the medallists and other athletes to do interviews.
- During the interview, the coaches reminded them \_\_\_\_\_ time off \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.
- The medallists were \_\_\_\_\_ to see that the public is \_\_\_\_\_ to learn \_\_\_\_\_ new sports.
- In the end, they \_\_\_\_\_ our audience not to give up on their dreams.



## Exercise 2.2

Charlotte is editing the content of an online forum. Complete the text by circling the best answers.

### SmartyPhone Pro 4 turns off by itself

<b>doggie</b>	6 Jul 20XX, 11:28 am	Post: #1
	After <b>(1)</b> ( <u>downloading</u> / download ) a photo, my phone tends <b>(2)</b> ( to switch / switching ) off automatically. Is there a way of <b>(3)</b> ( to handle / handling ) the problem?	
<b>lolo</b>	6 Jul 20XX, 12:20 pm	Re: Post #1
	Your phone seems <b>(4)</b> ( to have / having ) a battery issue. If the problem keeps <b>(5)</b> ( to occur / occurring ), it's better <b>(6)</b> ( checking / to check ) with the store.	

### Resetting SportyWatch Plus

<b>bigworld</b>	8 Jul 20XX, 09:00 am	Post: #2
	I attempted <b>(7)</b> ( removing / to remove ) an app by <b>(8)</b> ( resetting / to reset ) my watch. It didn't work. What should I do?	
<b>technerd</b>	9 Jul 20XX, 09:20 am	Re: Post #2
	To uninstall any apps, I recommend you <b>(9)</b> ( not to reset / not resetting ) your watch. Always go to 'Settings' <b>(10)</b> ( to complete / completing ) the step.	

## PART 3A Using either gerunds or to-infinitives

Some verbs can be followed by either a gerund or a to-infinitive which give similar meanings:

Verb + Gerund / to-infinitive					
<i>begin</i>	<i>continue</i>	<i>hate</i>	<i>intend</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>love</i>
<i>prefer</i>	<i>propose</i>	<i>start</i>	<i>bother</i>	<i>can't stand</i>	<i>can't bear</i>

## PART 3B Using bare infinitives

Bare infinitives are infinitives without *to*.

Subject	Verb	Object	Bare infinitive	
The accident	<b>made</b>	the students	<i>change</i>	their views on road safety.
Andrew	<b>lets</b>	his son	<i>fry</i>	the eggs every morning.
Nelson	<b>helped</b>	—	(to) <i>repair</i>	the watch.
The charity	<b>has helped</b>	the victims	(to) <i>rebuild</i>	their homes.

### Let's compare

<i>suggest</i>	<i>recommend</i>	<i>advise</i>
—	He <b>recommended</b> us <i>to keep</i> a pet.	He <b>advised</b> us <i>to keep</i> a pet.
He <b>suggested</b> <i>keeping</i> a pet.	He <b>recommended</b> <i>keeping</i> a pet.	He <b>advised</b> <i>keeping</i> a pet.
He <b>suggested</b> (that) we <i>keep</i> a pet.	He <b>recommended</b> (that) we <i>keep</i> a pet.	He <b>advised</b> (that) we <i>keep</i> a pet.

### Exercise 3.1

Are the following sentences correct? Put a tick (✓) or a cross (X) in the brackets. Underline the mistakes and write the correct words above them.

- We couldn't bear wait in the rain. ( X )
- The leaves were beginning turning yellow. ( )
- Let me help you print the timetable. ( )
- The doctor suggested me to exercise more. ( )
- Mum made me drink the soup. ( )
- The workers have helped moving the bricks. ( )

### Exercise 3.2

Leo and Paul are planning a party. Complete the conversation with the correct form of the given verbs.

- Leo:** Most classmates prefer (1) to throw (throw) a surprise birthday party for Mr Lau on Friday. Miss Tang is advising us that we (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (invite) Mr Lau for lunch in our classroom on that day.
- Paul:** I propose (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) our class teacher about our plan. She may help us (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the cake from the school office and let us (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (decorate) the classroom.
- Leo:** It's an ice cream cake. Flora will prepare some hot water (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (warm) the knife. The warm knife helps (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (cut) the frozen cake more easily.
- Paul:** Mr Lau loves (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) ice cream! That's the perfect present!
- Leo:** Actually, when he's starting (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (blow) the candles, we'll give him a present, perhaps a tie.
- Paul:** Oh! I recommend (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (not buy) ties. He said he had too many ...



# Grammar in Pre-DSE Text Type

Theme: Media and publications

William is writing a letter of advice to his cousin. Complete the letter by circling the best answers.

Words by Theme



Dear Marcus,

How is your school project going? I'm glad (1) that you're interested (2) videos too.

Shooting<sup>1</sup> can be a daunting task for a beginner. But don't worry, my advice will help you (3) problems that you may encounter.

My first advice is: never put off (4) until noon. Overhead lighting<sup>2</sup> can cast unflattering shadows! You might want (5) different places before (6) where to shoot the video. I recommend you (7) a backup plan for the shooting. Some of the spots<sup>3</sup> may not be available due to unexpected reasons.

Besides, I suggest (8) a good rest the night before. Remind yourself (9) the camera too much during the shooting. A tip for (10) a one-shot video<sup>4</sup>: as you keep (11) with the camera, make sure you won't run into people or objects. Remember, safety first!



I have confidence that you can make a great video! I'm looking forward to (12) it!

Best regards,  
William

- (1) A. know  
 B. to know  
 C. knowing  
 D. knew

- (2) A. of making  
 B. to make  
 C. make  
 D. in making

- (3) A. handle  
 B. handles  
 C. handling  
 D. to handling

- (4) A. to film  
 B. not to film  
 C. not filming  
 D. filming

- (5) A. explore  
 B. exploring  
 C. to explore  
 D. explores

- (6) A. decide  
 B. to decide  
 C. deciding  
 D. not to decide

- (7) A. preparing  
 B. to prepare  
 C. can prepare  
 D. not to prepare

- (8) A. to take  
 B. taking  
 C. you to take  
 D. you taking

- (9) A. to shake  
 B. not shaking  
 C. not to shake  
 D. do not shake

- (10) A. make  
 B. making  
 C. to make  
 D. to making

- (11) A. walk  
 B. walks  
 C. to walk  
 D. walking

- (12) A. watch  
 B. not watch  
 C. watched  
 D. watching

We may use gerunds and infinitives to indicate actions or purposes.

- He **ended up** losing all of his money. (phrasal verb + gerund)
- I stayed up late **to** revise. (to-infinitive showing the purpose)
- It is **unacceptable** **to** waste food. (adjective + to-infinitive)
- **Let** me check my schedule. (let + bare infinitive)

## Version 1

 Christina is writing an interview script for *Youth Magazine*. Read the script and pay attention to the underlined sentences.

### Interview: Tiffany Leung on Her Big Break in Box Office

(1) We're happy. We can talk to Tiffany Leung today. The new star gave an impressive performance in the action film *Kick High*.

**Reporter:** Hi Tiffany, you did a great job in *Kick High*. (2) How did you prepare yourself before playing this role?

**Tiffany:** The role involves a lot of fighting scenes. I didn't know any kung fu techniques before accepting the role. (3) I started learning kung fu. It was six months before we shot. For the first two months, my coach focused on training my fitness. I trained at least four hours a day. (4) I ran outdoors on the hottest days in July. It was tough.

**Reporter:** That sounds demanding! (5) You were very committed. You wanted to give a great performance.

**Tiffany:** Yes. I had to get enough rest too to maintain good physical condition. I promised my parents not to get hurt. (6) 'Don't practise overly,' my manager also warned me.

**Reporter:** Apart from the actions, your acting is outstanding too. How did you learn acting?

**Tiffany:** My brother is a drama actor. (7) He used different methods. He helped me to act naturally.

**Reporter:** (8) Can you tell us more? What were the other challenges of playing this role?

**Tiffany:** I had to move swiftly and look smart in heavy costumes. The filming was interrupted regularly because my sweat messed up my hair and makeup ...

## Version 2

Rewrite the underlined sentences in Version 1 based on the instructions.

### Interview: Tiffany Leung on Her Big Break in Box Office

(1) We're happy to talk to Tiffany Leung today (to-infinitive). The new star gave an impressive performance in the action film *Kick High*.

**Reporter:** Hi Tiffany, you did a great job in *Kick High*. (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (to-infinitive)?

**Tiffany:** The role involves a lot of fighting scenes. I didn't know any kung fu techniques before accepting the role. (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (gerund). For the first two months, my coach focused on training my fitness. I trained at least four hours a day. (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (to-infinitive).

**Reporter:** That sounds demanding! (5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (gerund).

**Tiffany:** Yes. I had to get enough rest too to maintain good physical condition. I promised my parents not to get hurt. (6) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (to-infinitive).

**Reporter:** Apart from the actions, your acting is outstanding too. How did you learn acting?

**Tiffany:** My brother is a drama actor. (7) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (to-infinitive, bare infinitive).

**Reporter:** (8) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (let, know)?

**Tiffany:** I had to move swiftly and look smart in heavy costumes. The filming was interrupted regularly because my sweat messed up my hair and makeup ...



#### Brain Breaks

Why are some magazines always so sad?

Answer: They have too many issues.

