

Intermediate English Grammar

Chapter 4 **Gerund & Infinitive (part 1)**

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GERUNDS: INTRODUCTION

A gerund is the *-ing* form of a verb used as a noun.

A gerund is used in the same ways as a noun, such as, used as a subject or as an object.

For example:

Walking is a good exercise.

I enjoy **reading**.

GERUNDS

Gerunds are used as the objects of certain verbs.

Common verbs that are followed by gerunds are given in the list below.

enjoy	delay	mention	quit (give up)
appreciate	consider	suggest	finish (get through)
mind	discuss	avoid	postpone (put off)
stop	deny	imagine	keep (keep on)

Further examples

- Suddenly everybody stopped talking. There was silence.
- I'll do the shopping when I've finished cleaning the flat.
- He tried to avoid answering my question.
- I don't fancy going out this evening. (= I'm not enthusiastic about it)
- Have you ever considered going to live in another country?

The negative form is ***not -ing***:

- When I'm on holiday, I enjoy not having to get up early.

With some verbs you can use the structure ***verb + somebody + -ing:***

- I can't imagine George riding a motorbike.
- You can't stop me doing what I want.
- Did you really say that? I don't remember you saying that.
- 'Sorry to keep you waiting so long.' 'That's all right.'

Note the passive form (being done/seen/kept etc.):

- I don't mind being kept waiting. (= I don't mind people keeping me ...)

When you are talking about finished actions, you can say having done/stolen/said etc.:

- They admitted having stolen the money.

But it is not necessary to use having (done). You can also say:

- They admitted stealing the money.
- I now regret saying (or having said) what i said.

Exercise

Complete each sentence with one of the following verbs in the correct form):

answer	make	listen	apply	read
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1. He tried to avoid my question.
2. Could you please stop so much noise?
3. I enjoy to music.
4. I considered for the job, but in the end I decided against it.
5. Have you finished the newspaper yet?

Exercise

Complete each sentence with one of the following verbs in the correct form):

answer	make	listen	apply	read
--------	------	--------	-------	------

1. He tried to avoid **answering** my question.
2. Could you please stop **making** so much noise?
3. I enjoy **listening** to music.
4. I considered **applying** for the job, but in the end I decided against it.
5. Have you finished **reading** the newspaper yet?

INFINITIVE: INTRODUCTION

An infinitive is to + the simple form of a verb.

For example:

Don't forget to lock the door.

You seem to have lost weight.

Do you know how to get to John's house?

INFINITIVE

Some verbs are followed immediately by an infinitive, as listed below:

hope	intend	arrange	want
plan	agree	manage	need
promise	offer	ask	deserve
decide	refuse	expect	would like

Further examples

- It was late, so we decided to take a taxi home.
- Simon was in a difficult situation, so I agreed to help him.
- How old were you when you learnt to drive? (or learnt how to drive)
- I waved to Karen, but failed to attract her attention.

The negative is **not to** ... :

- We decided not to go out because of the weather.
- I promised not to be late.

We also use to ... after:

seem	appear	tend	pretend	claim
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For example:

- They seem to have plenty of money.
- I like Dan, but I think he tends to talk too much.
- Ann pretended not to see me when she passed me in the street.

There is also a continuous infinitive (to be doing) and a perfect infinitive (to have done):

- I pretended to be reading the paper. (= I pretended that I was reading)
- You seem to have lost weight. (= it seems that you have lost weight)
- Joe seems to be enjoying his new job. (= it seems that he is enjoying it)

Exercise

Complete each sentence with a suitable verb.

1. Don't forget the door when you go out.
2. There was a lot of traffic, but we managed to the airport in time.
3. We couldn't afford in London. It's too expensive.
4. We've got new computer software in our office. I haven't learnt it yet.
5. Mark doesn't know what happened. I decided not him.
6. We were all afraid to speak. Nobody dared anything.

Exercise

Complete each sentence with a suitable verb.

1. Don't forget the door when you go out.
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5. Mark doesn't know what happened. I decided not him.
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Exercise

Complete each sentence with a suitable verb.

1. Don't forget **to lock** the door when you go out.
2. There was a lot of traffic, but we managed **to get** to the airport in time.
3. We couldn't afford **to live** in London. It's too expensive.
4. We've got new computer software in our office. I haven't learnt **to use** it yet.
5. Mark doesn't know what happened. I decided not **to tell** him.
6. We were all afraid to speak. Nobody dared **to say** anything.

Verb (+ object) + to ...

These verbs are followed by to ... (infinitive). The structure can be:

verb + to ...	verb + object + to ...
We expected to be late.	We expected Dan to be late.
Would you like to go now?	Would you like me to go now?
He doesn't want to know.	He doesn't want anybody to know.

tell	remind	force	encourage	teach
enable	order	warn	invite	persuade

These verbs have the structure verb + object + to ... :

- Can you remind me to call Sam tomorrow?
- Who taught you to drive?
- I didn't move the piano by myself. I got somebody to help me.
- Joe said the switch was dangerous and warned me not to touch it.

Make and let

These verbs have the structure verb + object + infinitive (without to):

- I made him promise that he wouldn't tell anybody what happened.
(not to promise)
- Hot weather makes me feel tired. (= causes me to feel tired)
- Her parents wouldn't let her go out alone. (= wouldn't allow her to go out)
- Let me carry your bag for you.

We say 'make somebody do' (not to do), but in the passive we say 'made to do' (with to):

- We were made to wait for two hours. (= They made us wait...)

Exercise

Complete each second sentence so that the meaning is similar to the first sentence.

1. My father said I could use his car.
2. I was surprised that it rained.
3. Don't stop him doing what he wants.
4. Tim looks older when he wears glasses.
5. I think you should know the truth.

Exercise

Complete each second sentence so that the meaning is similar to the first sentence.

1. My father allowed me to use his car.
2. I didn't expect it to rain.
3. Let him do what he wants.
4. Tim's glasses make him look older.
5. I want you to know the truth.

Thank you!

REFERENCES

Murphy, Raymond & Smalzer, William. *Grammar in use, Intermediate*. Cambridge U. Press, 2019.

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