



Infinitive VS Gerund

(as simple as expelliarmus)





The Basics:

Gerund: VERB + -ING (*eating, going, studying*)

Infinitive: TO + BASE VERB (*to eat, to go, to study*)

The main verbs (are they?)

An infinitive/gerund



- A gerund is the present participle (-ing) form of the verb.
- An infinitive is *to* + *the base verb* (the verb with no ending). Both gerunds and infinitives are action words (i.e., verbs) in meaning, but they act like nouns in the sentence.
- They always take a noun position: a subject or an object of the main verb. A gerund or infinitive is *never* the main verb (e.g., *I hiking* and *I to study* are incorrect).

Find the
Professor:



- Skiing is fun.
- I like hiking.
- I need to study.

- I enjoy watching *movies*.
- I don't want to study *English*.
- I asked my friend to help *me*.

3 Gerund
Rules:





- 1. Subject = Gerund
- When you need an action as a subject, use a gerund. Infinitives are possible, but they are very formal and not very common in this position.
- Reading is my favorite hobby.
- Learning English has improved my confidence.



- 2. Preposition + Gerund
- After a preposition, use a gerund. This is true for prepositions that are part of phrasal verbs, too.
- I thought about calling my grandma, but I was too tired.
- Are you planning on going to the party? (See the Notes section below to find out why *planning* is not a gerund.)

- 3. Verb + Gerund
- A gerund or an infinitive can be used after a main verb. It depends on the verb, and there isn't an easy rule for this case. Memorizing the most common verbs that take a gerund, such as *advise*, *avoid*, *enjoy*, *finish*, *practice*, *quit*, and *suggest*, is helpful.

- My teacher advised studying for the quiz.
- They enjoy making crafts in class.
- *Don't forget that some verbs take either a gerund or an infinitive with no change in meaning! Some common verbs include *like*, *love*, and *hate*.
- She likes watching movies.
- She likes to watch movies.



3 Infinitive Rules





- 1. Adjective + Infinitive
- After an adjective, it is common to use an infinitive verb. A gerund is possible in some cases, but an infinitive is usually the better choice.
- It is fun to play video games on the weekend.
- It was helpful to learn these grammar rules.



- 2. Noun + Infinitive
- If the main verb has an object that is a noun or a pronoun, it is almost always followed by an infinitive verb instead of a gerund.
- Did you want me to call you?
- The students asked their teacher to help them.
- *Note: This rule is very helpful, because it is stronger than the “verb + gerund” rule. For example, the verb *advise* normally takes a gerund (*She advised studying for the test*), but a noun/pronoun object will override this rule (*She advised her students to study for the test*).



- 3. Verb + Infinitive
- A gerund or an infinitive can be used after a main verb. It depends on the verb, and there isn't an easy rule for this case. Memorizing the most common verbs that take a infinitive, such as *ask*, *choose*, *decide*, *get*, *need*, *plan*, *promise*, and *want*, is helpful.
- He wants to learn Japanese.
- We need to clean up this mess.
- *Try typing in "gerunds and infinitives verb list" into a search engine to see lists of common verbs that take a gerund or an infinitive.

Infinito
gerundus!

