

# Gerunds and Infinitives

# Gerunds

➤ Use the gerund (verb + -ing)

1. After prepositions and phrasal verbs.

I'm very good **at remembering** names.

She has **given up smoking**.

2. As the subject of a sentence.

**Eating out** is cheap here.

3. After some verbs, e.g. *hate, spend, don't mind*.

I **don't mind getting up** early.

Common verbs which take the gerund include: *enjoy, hate, finish, like, love, mind, practice, spend, stop, suggest* and phrasal verbs, e.g. *give up, go on*, etc.

# Infinitives

➤ Use the infinitive (+ to)

1. After adjectives.

My flat is **easy to find**.

2. To express a reason or a purpose.

He is saving money **to buy** a new car.

3. After some verbs, e.g. want, need, learn.

She has never **learnt to drive**.

**Try not to make** a noise.

Common verbs which take the infinitive (with to) include: *can't afford, agree, decide, expect, forget, help, hope, learn, need, offer, plan, pretend, promise, refuse, remember, seem, try, want, would like.*

# Infinitive without to

➤ Use the infinitive without to

1. After auxiliary verbs.

I **can't drive**.

We **must hurry**.

2. After make and let.

My parents don't **let me go out**.

She always **makes me laugh**.

- Gerunds and infinitives form the negatives with *not*, e.g. *not to do*.  
*Not doing*.
- More verbs take the infinitive than the gerund.
- These common verbs can take either the gerund or infinitive with no difference in meaning, *begin, continue, prefer, start*.  
It **started to rain**.  
It **started raining**.
- Some verbs can take a gerund and an infinitive but the meaning is different.  
**Try to be** on time. =make an effort to be on time.  
**Try doing** yoga. =do it to see if you like it.  
**Remember to phone** him. =don't forget to do it.  
I **remember meeting** him years ago. = I have a memory of it.

Complete the sentences with the *-ing* form or the infinitive (with or without *to*) of the verb in brackets.

1. She left without ..... (say) goodbye.
2. Would you mind ..... (turn) your music down? I can't concentrate.
3. Holly said I should ..... (learn) to do tai-chi to relieve stress.
4. Kamran's just gone to the shop ..... (get) a newspaper.
5. I've given up ..... (try) to learn how to dance salsa – I'm hopeless!
6. Janice doesn't seem ..... (enjoy) her job very much.
7. I love ..... (not / have) to get up at 5.30 a.m. any more.

8. We carried on ..... (work) until we finished.
9. I'd like ..... (set up) a new company.
10. The interviewer asked me ..... (wait) in the reception.
11. Don't forget ..... (sign ) the application form.
12. I can't afford ..... (accept) a lower salary.
13. .... (apply) for a job can be complicated.
14. I really enjoy ..... (learn) new skills.
15. We find it easy..... (train) new employees.
16. She is very good at ..... (type)
17. I've decided ..... (resign) from my job.
18. We spent two month ..... (interview) all the candidates.
19. They must increase the salary ..... (attract) the right applicants.
20. It is impossible for me ..... (move) to the new office.