



Gerunds, Infinitives and Bare Infinitives

FORM

USE

EXAMPLES

GERUND
verb+ing

- a. functions as a noun
as the subject of a sentence
as the object of a sentence
- b. after prepositions
- c. for activities after the verb *go*
- d. after certain verbs and expressions
(see list 1 below)

Smoking is bad for you.
We hate swimming.

Thank you for coming.

They go sailing regularly.

I don't mind helping you.

INFINITIVE
to + verb

- a. after certain adjectives
- b. after *too / enough* + adjective
- c. after certain verbs and expressions
(see lists 2 and 3 below)

I am surprised to see you here.

Are you old enough to drive?

It's difficult to say why she cried.
We advised him to be there early.

BARE INFINITIVE
verb without to

- a. after modals
- b. with certain verbs
(see list 5 below)

She should eat more fruit.

They made him clear up the mess.
You'd better not forget again.

1 Verbs and expressions followed by a gerund (verb+ing):

admit	consider	enjoy	it's no use / good	miss	resist
appreciate	delay	fancy	it's worth	postpone	risk
avoid	deny	feel like	keep	practise	spend (time)
can't help	discuss	finish	look forward to	recall	suggest
can't stand	dislike	go	mention	recommend	understand
complete	end up	imagine	mind	resent	

He denies breaking the dish.

She feels like eating out tonight.

John doesn't mind going on foot.

2 Verbs and expressions followed by an infinitive (to + verb):

afford	claim	forget	learn	pretend	volunteer
agree	consent	have a chance	manage	promise	wait
appear	decide	help	mean	refuse	want
arrange	demand	hesitate	need	seem	wish
ask	deserve	hope	offer	swear	would like
beg	expect	it's difficult / easy	plan	the idea is	would prefer
be willing	fail	it's time	prepare	threaten	

I can't afford to buy a car.

We'll manage to find the street.

They'd prefer to live in the country.

3 Verbs followed by a noun / pronoun + infinitive:

advise	challenge	expect	instruct	persuade	tell
allow	convince	forbid	invite	prefer	urge
ask	dare	force	need	remind	want
beg	enable	help	order	require	warn
cause	encourage	hire	permit	teach	

She advised me to talk to you.

They persuaded me to wait.

He begged his friend to lend him £

4 Verbs followed either by a gerund or an infinitive without a change in meaning:

begin	continue	intend	prefer
can't bear	hate	love	start

I intend to study art.

I can't bear to walk in the rain.

They started to laugh.

I intend studying art.

I can't bear walking in the rain.

They started laughing.

5 Verbs and expressions followed by the bare infinitive:

had better	help	let	make	would rather
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They let me stay up late.

I'd rather not attend the lecture.