

Gerunds and Infinitives

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Gerunds and Infinitives

- The object of a verb is usually a noun or pronoun.
- The object of a verb can also be a gerund which is used as a noun. Some words are followed by gerunds.
 - I enjoy **music**. (noun)
 - I enjoy **singing**. (gerund)
 - I enjoy **listening to music**. (gerund phrase)
- The object of a verb can also be an infinitive which is used as a noun. Some words are followed by infinitives.
 - I want **a sandwich**. (noun)
 - I want **to sleep**. (infinitive)
 - I want **to eat** a sandwich. (infinitive phrase)
- Some verbs are followed by either gerunds or infinitives.
 - It began **raining**.
 - It began **to rain**.

Verbs + Gerund

- Gerunds are used as the objects of the verbs.
 - I enjoyed working in my garden.
 - Bob finished studying at midnight.
 - It stopped snowing a few minutes ago.
 - David quits smoking.
 - Would you mind opening the window?
 - I postponed (put off) doing my homework.
 - Keep on working. Don't stop.
 - I'm considering (thinking about) going to Hawaii.
 - They discussed (talked about) getting a new job.
 - I considered not going to class.

Go + Gerund / Preposition + Gerund

- Go is followed by a gerund in certain idiomatic expressions about activities.
 - Did you go shopping yesterday?
 - I went swimming last week.
 - Bob hasn't gone fishing in years.
- There is no to between go and the gerund.
- A preposition is followed by a gerund not an infinitive.
 - Kate insisted on coming with us.
 - We're excited about going to Australia.
 - I apologized for being late.

Verb + Infinitive

- Some words are followed by an infinitive.
 - Tom **offers to lend** me some money.
 - I have **decided to buy** a new car.
 - I've **decided not to keep** my old car.
- Common verbs followed by infinitives
 - Want, need, would like, would love, hope, expect, plan, intend, mean, decide, promise, offer, agree, refuse, seem, appear, pretend, forget, try, (can't) afford, (can't) wait

Using by and with

- By + a gerund is used to express how something is done.
 - Pat turned on the radio **by pushing the stop button**.
- By or with followed by noun is also used to express how something is done.
 - Mary goes to work **by bus**.
 - Andrea stirred her coffee **with a spoon**.
- By is used for means of transportation and communication:
 - by plane, by boat, by bus, by car, by subway, by train, by foot, by mail, by phone, by fax, by air, by land, by sea
- Others:
 - by chance, by choice, by mistake, by hand
- With is used for instruments or parts of the body
 - I cut down the tree with an axe (by using an axe).
 - I swept the floor with a broom.
 - She pointed to a spot on the map with her finger.

Using gerund as subjects

Using It + infinitive

- A gerund can be used as the subject of a sentence. The verb that follows must be singular because a gerund is singular.
 - Riding horses is fun.
 - Coming to class is important.
- The word it is used as the subject of the sentence. The word it has the same meaning as the infinitive phrase at the end of the sentence.
 - It is fun to ride horses.
 - It is important to come to class.
- This can be viewed as
 - To ride horses is fun.
 - To come to class is important.

It + Infinitive: using for (someone)

- A common usage.
 - You should study hard.
 - It is important for you to study hard.
 - Mary should keep on working hard.
 - It is important for Mary to keep on working hard.
 - We don't have to go to the meeting.
 - It isn't necessary for us to go to the meeting.
 - A dog can't talk.
 - It is impossible for a dog to talk.

Using In order to

- **In order to** expresses purpose or answers the question “Why?”
 - Why did you go to the post office?
 - I went to the post office **because** I want to mail a letter.
 - I went to the post office **in order to** mail a letter.
 - I went to the post office **to** mail a letter.
- For is also used to express purpose, but it is preposition and is followed by a noun phrase.
 - I went to the post office **for** some stamps.
 - I went to the post office **to** buy some stamps.
- **INCORRECT:**
 - I went to the post office **for to** buy some stamps.
 - I went to the post office **for** buying some stamps.

Using infinitives with too and enough

- Infinitives often follow expressions with too.
 - A piano is **too heavy** to lift.
 - That box is **too heavy** for me to lift.
 - That box is **too heavy** for Bob to lift.
- Infinitives often follow expressions with enough.
 - I don't have **enough** money to buy that car.
 - Did you have **enough** time to finish the test?
 - Jimmy isn't old **enough** to go to school.
 - Are you hungry **enough** to eat three sandwiches?