

## GERUNDS (VERB + ING) & INFINITIVES (TO + VERB)

One of the fundamental principles of English is that you can't put two verbs side by side. It is not possible to say:

"I like ~~eat~~ pizza."

So, what can we do to fix it? In this case you have two choices:

"I like **eating** pizza." Or, "I like **to eat** pizza."

Which one is better? Like is a verb of emotion, so although both sentences are correct, it is not possible to use the infinitive form with other verbs of emotion. So, we can't say, "I ~~hate to eat~~ pizza." We can only say, "I **hate eating** pizza." In order to avoid trying to remember which verbs of emotion go with the gerund or the infinitive, use the gerund as you are more likely to be correct!

A. **Gerunds** = these words are just like nouns formed from a verb by adding "ing". We use them in 4 ways:

1. Subject: "**READING** helps you learn English."
2. Complement: "Her favourite hobby is **READING**."
3. Object: "I enjoy **READING**."
4. Object of a preposition: I am thinking about **READING** a book.

**Use:**

1. real, complete actions: "I stopped **READING** Spanish books when I moved to France."
2. something you do: "I enjoy **READING** in the morning."
3. Feelings (like, love, hate, enjoy, etc.): "I don't enjoy **READING** magazines."

B. **Infinitives** = these are nouns formed from the original form of the verb. We use them in 3 ways:

1. Subject: "**TO READ** is important."\*
2. Complement: "The most important thing in the world is **TO READ**."\*
3. Object: "He wants **TO READ**."

\*It is possible to use the infinitive, but you are more likely to use a gerund, as the infinitive form is more abstract.

**Use:**

1. Abstract/unreal: "I'd like you **TO THINK** about Kate moving here."
2. Purpose / why / intention: "I came to London **TO STUDY**."
3. After an adjective: "She was happy **TO SEE** you".

**Note:**

Some verbs (e.g. **ENJOY**) are followed by gerunds.

Some verbs (e.g. **WANT**) are followed by infinitives.

Some verbs (e.g. **BEGIN**) are followed by either gerunds or infinitives.

Some verbs (e.g. **REMBEMBER**, **STOP**, etc.) are followed by either, but there is a difference in the meaning:

Gerund - memory in the past, "I **REMBEMBER** going to the beach as a kid."

Infinitive - to not forget to do something, "Please **REMBEMBER** to buy milk."

