

# English With Nimafar

## Gerunds VS. Infinitives

### Overview:

Understanding when to use **gerunds (verb + -ing)** and **infinitives (to + verb)** is essential for mastering English grammar. This guide explains the rules, provides examples, and highlights common mistakes and exceptions.

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## 1 What are Gerunds and Infinitives?

### ✓ Gerunds (-ing form)

A gerund is a verb that functions as a **noun** in a sentence.

- **Example:** *Swimming* is fun.
- **Example:** I enjoy *reading* books.

### ✓ Infinitives (to + verb)

An infinitive is the **base form of a verb** with "to."

- **Example:** She wants *to learn* Spanish.
- **Example:** I decided *to move* to Canada.

## 2 When to Use Gerunds

Use gerunds in these situations:

✦ **As the subject of a sentence**

- **Example:** *Exercising* is important for health.
- **Example:** *Cooking* is my hobby.

### ✚ After certain verbs

Some verbs are always followed by a gerund:

Verb	Example
Enjoy	I enjoy <i>traveling</i> .
Avoid	He avoids <i>eating</i> junk food.
Consider	She considered <i>changing</i> jobs.

✗ **Common mistake:** ❌ *I enjoy to play soccer.* → ✅ *I enjoy playing soccer.*

## 3 When to Use Infinitives

Use infinitives in these cases:

### ✚ After certain verbs

Some verbs require an infinitive:

Verb	Example
Want	I want <i>to travel</i> the world.
Decide	She decided <i>to move</i> abroad.
Plan	We plan <i>to visit</i> New York.

✗ **Common mistake:** ❌ *I want going home.* → ✅ *I want to go home.*

## 4 Verbs That Can Take Both

Some verbs change meaning depending on whether they are followed by a gerund or infinitive:

Verb	Gerund Meaning	Infinitive Meaning
<b>Stop</b>	<i>He stopped smoking.</i> (He quit.)	<i>He stopped to smoke.</i> (He paused to smoke.)
<b>Remember</b>	<i>I remember meeting her.</i> (I recall it.)	<i>Remember to call her.</i> (Don't forget.)
<b>Try</b>	<i>Try eating less sugar.</i> (Experiment with it.)	<i>Try to eat less sugar.</i> (Make an effort.)
<b>Forget</b>	<i>I'll never forget meeting her.</i> (Memory of past event.)	<i>Don't forget to lock the door.</i> (Reminder for the future.)
<b>Regret</b>	<i>I regret saying that.</i> (I feel bad about a past action.)	<i>I regret to inform you...</i> (Formal announcement.)
<b>Mean</b>	<i>Being a doctor means working long hours.</i> (It involves.)	<i>I meant to call you.</i> (Intended to do.)
<b>Go on</b>	<i>He went on talking for hours.</i> (Continued the same action.)	<i>He went on to become a famous actor.</i> (Did something new.)
<b>Need</b>	<i>The car needs washing.</i> (Passive meaning – needs to be washed.)	<i>I need to wash the car.</i> (Active meaning – I must do it.)
<b>Dread</b>	<i>I dread going to the dentist.</i> (Fear of doing something.)	<i>I dread to think what might happen.</i> (Hesitation in imagining.)
<b>Like</b>	<i>I like swimming.</i> (General enjoyment.)	<i>I like to swim in the mornings.</i> (Preference or habit.)
<b>Hate</b>	<i>I hate waking up early.</i> (General dislike.)	<i>I hate to be late.</i> (Regretful action.)

<b>Prefer</b>	<i>I prefer reading books.</i> (General preference.)	<i>I prefer to read at night.</i> (Specific situation.)
<b>Begin</b>	<i>She began crying.</i> (No change in meaning.)	<i>She began to cry.</i> (No change in meaning.)
<b>Continue</b>	<i>He continued working.</i> (No change in meaning.)	<i>He continued to work.</i> (No change in meaning.)
<b>Allow</b>	<i>They don't allow smoking inside.</i> (No object before gerund.)	<i>They don't allow people to smoke inside.</i> (Object before infinitive.)

✗ **Common mistake:** ❌ *I stopped to watch TV.* (Incorrect if you mean quitting watching TV.) →  
 ✓ *I stopped watching TV.*

## 5 Gerunds After Prepositions

A gerund is always used after a preposition:

- ✓ He is good at painting.
- ✓ We talked about traveling.

✗ **Common mistake:** ❌ *She is interested to learn English.* → ✓ *She is interested in learning English.*

## 6 Infinitives After Adjectives

Use an infinitive after an adjective to express emotions or opinions:

- ✓ It's important to exercise.
- ✓ She is happy to help.

✗ **Common mistake:** ❌ *It's important exercising.* → ✓ *It's important to exercise.*

## 7 Special Cases: Passive Voice & Perfect Forms

### ✚ Passive Voice with Infinitives

- ✓ He expects to be promoted soon.
- ✓ The project needs to be finished by Friday.

### ✚ Perfect Gerunds & Infinitives (for past actions)

- ☒ I regret **having said** that. (Past regret)
- ☒ She claims **to have met** the president. (Past claim)

## 8 Advanced Notes: Rare Exceptions & Tricky Cases

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### 📌 Sense Verbs: Gerund vs. Bare Infinitive

- ☒ I heard **him sing**. (Completed action)
- ☒ I heard **him singing**. (Ongoing action)

### 📌 Would Rather + Bare Infinitive

- ☒ I would rather **stay** home than go out.

### 📌 Verbs of Perception with Bare Infinitives

- ☒ I saw **her dance** at the party.

## 🎯 A Quick Recap

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- ☒ Use **gerunds** after prepositions, certain verbs, and as subjects.
- ☒ Use **infinitives** after adjectives, certain verbs, and for future intentions.
- ☒ Some verbs change meaning based on gerund vs. infinitive usage.
- ☒ Be careful with **common mistakes and exceptions!**

## Examples 📖

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- 1 She stopped **to buy** some coffee. 🍵
- 2 I regret **spending** so much money last night. 💰
- 3 He forgot **meeting** her at the party last year. 😞
- 4 I love **traveling** to new places. 🌍
- 5 They decided **to move** to a different city. 🏙️
- 6 She dislikes **being interrupted** when she's talking. 🗣️
- 7 He avoided **answering** my question. 🙄
- 8 I need **to finish** my assignment before midnight. ⌚
- 9 She failed **to submit** the application on time. 📄
- 10 The house needs **cleaning** before the guests arrive. 🏠
- 1 1 He promised **to call** me after work. 📞
- 1 2 We went on **to discuss** the next topic. 🗣️
- 1 3 I can't stand **waiting** in long lines. 😡
- 1 4 The lawyer advised him **to remain** silent. ⚖️
- 1 5 I remember **locking** the door before leaving. 🚪

- 1 6 She hopes **to become** a famous writer. ✍️
- 1 7 They risked **losing** everything. 💎
- 1 8 I happened **to see** her at the airport. ✈️
- 1 9 He doesn't mind **helping** others. 🤝
- 2 0 She kept **talking** even though no one was listening. 🗣️
- 2 1 He agreed **to lend** me his book. 📖
- 2 2 I would prefer **to stay** home tonight. 🏠
- 2 3 She mentioned **having met** him before. 🎬
- 2 4 I forgot **to call** my mom this morning. 📞
- 2 5 He learned **to drive** when he was sixteen. 🚗
- 2 6 The teacher encouraged us **to participate** in the debate. 🏢
- 2 7 I can't imagine **living** without music. 🎵
- 2 8 She refused **to apologize** for what she said. 🚫
- 2 9 The project requires **careful planning**. 📝
- 3 0 He happened **to find** an old letter in the attic. 📄
- 3 1 I dread **to think** about what might happen. 😬
- 3 2 He delayed **making** a decision. ⌚
- 3 3 She didn't mean **to hurt** your feelings. 💔
- 3 4 He's considering **changing** his job. 💼
- 3 5 I regret **not studying** harder for the test. 🎓
- 3 6 They managed **to escape** before the police arrived. 🚓
- 3 7 I watched her **dance** on stage. 💃
- 3 8 The book is worth **reading** twice. 📖
- 3 9 Having finished his work, he went **to relax** by the beach. 🏖️
- 4 0 She intends **to start** a business next year. 🏢

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Teaching in a  
250,000-member  
Discord server

[teachernimafar@gmail.com](mailto:teachernimafar@gmail.com)

