



Gerunds and Infinitives

A **gerund** is derived from a verb but functions as a noun.

An **infinitive** is the basic form of a verb, without an inflection binding it to a particular subject or tense.

Gerund = the present participle (ing) form of the verb, e.g., singing, dancing, running

Infinitive = to + the base form of the verb, e.g., to sing, to dance, to run

Whether you use a **gerund** or an **infinitive** depends on the **main verb** in the sentence.

I anticipate *having* the research completed eventually. (Gerund)

I expect *to have* the results of the operation soon. (Infinitive)

Gerunds are used after certain verbs including enjoy, fancy, discuss, dislike, finish, mind, suggest, recommend, keep, and avoid.

1) After *prepositions* of place and time:

I made dinner *before getting* home.

He looked unhappy *after seeing* his work schedule.

2) To replace the *subject* or *object* of a sentence:

Lachlan likes *eating* coconut oil.

Jumping off a cliff is dangerous, but a real thrill.

Infinitives are used after certain verbs including agree, ask, decide, help, plan, hope, learn, want, would like, and promise.

1) After many *adjectives*:

It is hard *to make* dinner this late.

I find it difficult *to describe* my feelings about writing research essays.

2) To show *purpose*:

I left for Russia *to study* Russian.

I came to the office *to solve* the mystery of the missing keys.