

GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES

I. GERUND

Preposition + gerund

bored with, fond of, look forward to, get used to, insist on
*I'm **bored with waiting**. Mike **insisted on buying** her a drink.*



Gerund as the subject of the sentence *Learning English is fun!*

Common phrases + gerund

It's (not) worth... *This book is **worth reading**.*
It's no good... *It is **no good trying** to apologize.*
There's no point... *There's **no point carrying on** with this.*

Verb + gerund

liking and disliking	<i>enjoy, dislike, hate</i>
phrasal verbs	<i>go on, give up, put off</i>
some phrases with <i>can't</i>	<i>can't help, can't stand</i>
other verbs	<i>avoid, delay, finish, keep, risk, suggest</i>
<i>go + sports or leisure activities</i>	<i>go skiing, go dancing, go shopping</i>

II. INFINITIVE

Adjective + infinitive

*Your writing is **difficult to read**.*
*It's **lovely to see** you again.*

Infinitive of purpose

*I'm calling **to find out** if you stock spare parts.*

Verb + infinitive

plans and decisions	<i>aim, arrange, choose, decide, plan, prepare</i>
expectations	<i>demand, expect, hope, want, wish, would like</i>
promises and refusals	<i>fail, guarantee, offer, promise, refuse</i>
other verbs	<i>agree, learn, manage, seem, tend</i>

Verb + object + infinitive

advise, allow, help, remind, teach, use

Noun + infinitive

attempt, effort, opportunity, way
*It was good **opportunity to work and travel**.*
*This is an easy **way to stop** smoking.*

III. GERUND OR INFINITIVE: NO CHANGE IN MEANING

begin, bother, continue, intend, start

*It was **starting to get** dark.*

IV. GERUND OR INFINITIVE: CHANGE IN MEANING

forget, stop, regret, remember, try

*I definitely **remember posting** the letter. X I must **remember to post** the letter.*
*I'll never **forget flying** to Mexico. X Sorry, I **forgot to turn off** the lights.*
*I **regret spending** all the money. I've got none left. X I **regret to inform** you that we...*
*I **tried clicking** on the box, but it doesn't work. X I'm **trying to run** this computer program.*
*We **stopped buying** from that supplier. X I **stopped to buy** something for my wife.*

GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES

1 Complete the mini-dialogue by putting the verbs in brackets into the correct form, using gerund or infinitive.

ISABEL: Oh, no, not again.

FERNANDA: What's wrong?

ISABEL: My computer's crashed. It keeps (1) _____ (do) it. I have to save my documents every few minutes or I risk (2) _____ (lose) all the work I've just done.

FERNANDA: Have you got enough disk space?

ISABEL: Yeah, I have. I really don't know what's causing it (3) _____ (crash) so often.

Look, you're good at computers. What do you advise me (4) _____ (do)?

FERNANDA: Well, I don't know. I haven't been trained (5) _____ (fix) them. You'll have to ask an IT technician (6) _____ (come) and have a look at it.

ISABEL: Hah. You know, there's no point (7) _____ (call) a technician - they'll be ages and I ... I really can't afford (8) _____ (wait) all day for someone to come, I'm really busy.

FERNANDA: Why don't you phone the helpdesk then? They'll advise you what (9) _____ (do) over the phone.

ISABEL: Oh, yeah. I suppose so.

FERNANDA: And if you're really that busy, have you considered (10) _____ (ask) Sophie to help you, she hasn't got a lot of work at the moment.

ISABEL: Oh, hasn't she? That's great. I'll ask her (11) _____ (type) up this report. Thanks.

2 Complete this letter by putting the verbs in brackets into the correct form.

Dear Audio World,

I am writing (1) _____ (complain) about the poor service that I received when I was in your store last week. Recently you decided (2) _____ (remove) listening facilities in your stores, and your sales staff encouraged customers (3) _____ (take) home their choice of CDs without (4) _____ (hear) them first. You invited us (5) _____ (return) any CDs that we did not like, as long as we kept the receipt as proof of purchase. In my opinion this was an excellent policy as it allowed customers (6) _____ (risk) (7) _____ (buy) things that were a little different.

A consequence of your policy is that customers will buy more CDs, and this means (8) _____ (return) more that they don't like. In fact last week I brought back eight CDs, from the fourteen I had bought on the previous visit. Your salesman refused (9) _____ (accept) such a large number, and accused me of (10) _____ (take) the CDs home just (11) _____ (copy) them. I strongly objected to (12) _____ (be) treated like this as I had remembered (13) _____ (bring) the receipts with me and my actions were within the terms of your guarantee.

I can't help (14) _____ (think) that you will lose a lot of business if your staff go on (15) _____ (behave) in this way, and I advise you (16) _____ (train) your staff (17) _____ (deal) with customers in a more polite manner.

*Yours sincerely,
Ian Carr*

