

Lesson 20 Infinitives

In the last lesson we looked at one kind of verbal—gerunds. In this lesson we will learn about another kind of verbal—infinitives.

Gerund Review

We have seen that **gerunds** can go anywhere that a noun goes in a sentence. Do you remember their uses?

- Subject→ **Jogging** is good exercise.
- After a preposition→ He grew stronger by **lifting** weights every day.
- After a verb→ We enjoy **relaxing** on the weekends.
- As a describer→ We spent the hot afternoon in the **swimming** pool.

What is an infinitive?

An **infinitive** (Vinf) is the **to Vb** form. Every verb has an **infinitive** form: to eat, to drink, to type, to sit, to have, to make, to be, etc.

- **Form:** to Vb
- **Use:** You may see an **infinitive** as a **subject** in writing or poetry, but an **infinitive** usually comes **after certain verbs**.
- **Feel:** Like gerunds, infinitives have a verb-like quality. They look and “feel” like verbs, but they are not. Infinitives also have a “future” feeling.

The infinitive never changes form. The verb before the infinitive changes.

- Subject→ *To be or not to be...That is the question.....* Shakespeare
- After a verb→ She wants **to be** a movie star.
I have always wanted **to be** a movie star, too.

Verbs that can be followed by infinitives:

agree	decide	happen	manage	promise
appear	deserve	hesitate	need	refuse
attempt	endeavor	hope	offer	seem
begin	expect	intend	plan	want
can't afford	fail	know how	prepare	would like
care	forget	learn	pretend	

Examples:

- **Do you know how to fix** the TV?
- **We decided to postpone** our vacation until next year.
- **She needs to see** a doctor right away.

Remember: all verbs have an infinitive form, but only certain verbs can be followed by an infinitive.

Lesson 22 Exercise 1

Directions: Write five sentences using verbs from the above list followed by an infinitive. Use a variety of X-Words and verb forms.

Verbs that are followed by a main word then an infinitive

There is another group of verbs that are followed by a main word and then by the infinitive. The main word answers the question "Who?"

Example: The teacher **warned us to study** for the exam.
 Who did the teacher warn? _____

Example: We **invited Thomas to come** to the party.
 Who did we invite? _____



Verbs followed by a main word then an infinitive.

advise	convince	hire	order	teach
allow	encourage	instruct	permit	tell
ask	force	invite	persuade	urge
cause	get	oblige	remind	warn
command				

Lesson 22 Exercise 2

Directions: Write five sentences using verbs from the above list followed by main word then an infinitive. Use a variety of X-Words and verb forms.

Verbs that can be followed by a gerund or an infinitive

Some verbs can be followed by a gerund **or** an infinitive. You already know one of these:

She **likes eating** chocolate. She **likes to eat** chocolate.

Verbs that can be followed by a gerund or an infinitive

Use a gerund OR and infinitive			Use a gerund OR and infinitive, but the meaning changes	
begin	start	like	quit*	forget*
can't stand	hate	love	regret*	stop*
continue	intend	prefer	remember*	try*

* You can use either a gerund or an infinitive after these verbs, but the meaning changes.

Example: I stopped to smoke. (I stopped my activity and smoked a cigarette.)

I stopped smoking. (I quit. I don't smoke cigarettes anymore.)



Lesson 22 Exercise 3

Directions: Complete these sentences with the verbs or forms given. The first one has been done for you.

1. She has never (like) liked (Ger) studying.
2. Would you (continue) _____ (Vinf) _____.
3. I am (begin) _____ (Vinf) _____.
4. Did you (start) _____ (Ger) _____ yet?

One more thing...

★ Infinitives (Vinf) are different from the base form (Vb).

☠ Never use an infinitive after an X-Word.

☠ Never use an infinitive after a preposition.

Lesson 22 Exercise 4

Directions: All of these sentences have "infinitive mistakes". Write each one correctly.

1. Can you to go on the trip?
2. I go to class for to speak English.
3. They want buy a new house.
4. Are you learning speak English?
5. She should to attend college.