

Infinitives = to + simple form of verb

EX: to swim, to go, to live, to eat

Some verbs are followed immediately by an infinitive:

I hope to see her soon. He promised to be here by 9.

We plan to visit her in July.

They decided to move to California.

She refused to accept the money.

Other verbs are followed by a noun or pronoun then an infinitive.

We told her to go to bed.

They invited me to stay overnight.

I need you to pick up the kids.

She wants Sam to paint her house.

He reminded her to close the window.

She asked us to leave.

Common Verbs followed by an infinitive:

hope, plan, decide, promise, agree, offer, refuse, appear, ask, expect, want, need

Common Verbs followed by a noun or pronoun then infinitive

tell, advise, remind, invite, permit, allow, warn, require, force, ask, expect, want, need

Finish these sentences with an infinitive. Speak your sentences to the group.

EX: I want to learn to play the piano.

1. I want...
2. I refused
3. I warned
4. I invited
5. I decided
6. I asked
7. I promised.
8. I reminded

Sometimes it is difficult to know when to use a gerund or an infinitive. Choose a gerund or infinitive in these sentences.

1. I have trouble (to remember-remembering) his phone number.
2. Would you like (to join-joining) us for dinner?
3. Jack avoided (to look-looking) at me.
4. Jay decided (to take-taking) a job in San Diego.
5. The reminded us (to finish-finishing) our homework.
6. Do you enjoy (to play-playing) soccer?
7. Jenny offered (to pay-paying) the bill.
8. Mother promised (to babysit-babysitting) for us on Friday.
9. Would you mind (to open-opening) the door for me?
10. I asked her (to be-being) quiet.
11. They kept (to ask-asking) for money.
12. They hoped (to get-getting) married in June.
13. The teacher told us (to use-using) a dictionary.
14. Mother reminded me (to mail-mailing) the letter.
15. Ann advised us (to take-taking) the bus.
16. Jack suggested (to buy-buying) a car rather than renting.
17. I don't mind (to do-doing) it.
18. She forgot (to lock-locking) the door.

19. He admitted (to steal-stealing) the money.
20. I hired a limousine (to take- taking) me to the airport.
21. Jan agreed (to sell-selling) her car for a lower price.

22. I miss (to have-having) my own car.
23. Mother doesn't tolerate (to chew-chewing) with your mouth open.
24. We promised not (to eat-eating) pork.
25. The man reported (to see-seeing) the suspect breaking the window.
26. We needed Jim (to help-helping) us with the construction.
27. She hired a boy (to mow-mowing) the lawn.
28. I regret (to tell-telling) her about the accident.
29. I promise not (to be-being) late.
30. We prepared (to welcome-welcoming) them.

CONVERSATIONS WITH GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES: Read these conversations with a partner. Remember to read them twice. Switch parts each time. Underline the gerunds and infinitives.

JO: I would like to learn to speak English better.

TY: I think you speak English very well. But, I understand your desire to learn more English.

JO: I want to improve my pronunciation. I know the right word to say, but I don't always know how to pronounce it. Spelling English words is hard, too. I have to guess at the spelling.

TY: I am happy to help you with pronunciation. Spelling is easy. Just use a dictionary.

RAY: I have decided to return to school. I shouldn't have dropped out of school. Staying in school is always a good idea. I regret quitting.

POP: I'm proud you plan to go back to school. I promise to help you any way I can. I know you are capable of succeeding.

BETH: I tried convincing Mary to stay with us, but she wouldn't.

RITA: I think she prefers to stay in a hotel. She enjoys her privacy.

BETH: But I want to have plenty of time to talk with her about my family. I haven't seen her in years. I was hoping we could spend lots of time together.

RITA: Mary is a very quiet person. She enjoys spending time alone reading or meditating. I encourage you not to talk too much about your family. She is a single woman with no children of her own. She won't enjoy hearing endless stories about your grandchildren.

LIZ: I love to go hiking in winter. I like walking on the fresh snow. I enjoy watching the squirrels and rabbits scamper about looking for food.

TOM: I enjoy spending time inside during the winter. I like sitting in front of the fireplace reading a good book.

LIZ: I think if you went on a hike, you would enjoy it. Would you care to join me on a hike tomorrow? I'm planning to hike in the woods behind our house.

TOM: Thank you for asking. But I prefer staying warm in my cozy house.

Answer these questions in your groups. This will give you practice in using gerunds and infinitives.

1. What do you always avoid doing?
2. What are some things you enjoy doing every day?
3. What do you miss about your home country?
4. What is something you plan to do soon?
5. What do you plan to do this summer?

