

FUMC ESL 5-7-2020 Online Lesson

Last lesson we studied infinitives (to + verb) and gerunds (noun made by putting "ing" on a verb). One of our students provided this set of rules for gerunds and infinitives. Teachers: Have the students read the rules and examples.

1-**Gerunds** are used more commonly as the **subject** of the sentence than **infinitives**. EX: Walking is good for your health. Eating vegetables is important for good health. Finding a parking space is difficult downtown. Learning about other cultures is interesting.

There are very few times an infinitive works as a subject. Most of the time, they sound very awkward.

EX: To be or not to be, that is the question. (If Shakespeare wants to use an infinitive as a subject, that is OK. But in modern English it is very rare) Look at these examples:

To start a sentence with an infinitive sounds very awkward. Preferred: Starting a sentence...
To speak more than one language is an advantage. Preferred: Speaking more than one...
To travel is exciting. Preferred: Traveling is exciting.

2-When deciding whether to use a gerund or an infinitive in the object of the sentence, you must consider the **verb**. Some verbs **must be followed with an infinitive**.

EX: I **agreed** to go. I **decided** to participate. She **learned** to play the piano.

Here are the a few more common verbs that require an infinitive.: **deserve, expect, hope, need, offer, plan, promise, seem, wait, want**.

Other verbs **must be followed by a gerund**.

EX: She **avoided** looking me in the eye. I **suggested** reading more English stories. We **keep** running into each other.

Here are a few more common verbs that require a gerund: **admit, advise, consider, deny, involve, mention, mind, recommend, risk**

3-Infinitives are frequently used after adjectives.

EX: It's not **easy** to learn English. It is **wonderful** to have close friends. She was **hesitant** to tell the coach she was hurt. We are **happy** to be here. I was **sad** to hear you were sick. We were **pleased** to receive your letter. My friends were **surprised** to discover we were married.

4- If a pronoun, or a noun describing a person is inserted after the verb, it is usually followed by an infinitive.

EX: I taught swimming. ----- I taught **her** to swim.
Ireland doesn't allow smoking in bars. ----- Ireland doesn't allow **people** to smoke in bars.
This job requires traveling. ----- This job requires **me** to travel to Japan.

PRACTICE--Choose the correct answer

1. I thought Jack deserved (being / to be) fired.
2. I don't mind (to cook / cooking) breakfast for the kids.
3. Matt avoided (to answer / answering) his cell phone during dinner.
4. The teacher wants (to begin / beginning) class right away.
5. I resent (to be / being) treated as your servant.
6. We finished (to paint / painting) the barn today.
7. He expects (to continue / continuing) his studies next year.
8. I told him (to meet / meeting) us at the beach after work.
9. (To jump / Jumping) out of a plane without a parachute is suicide.
10. I demand (to see / seeing) the manager.
11. The teacher taught us (to read / reading) carefully.
12. My sister teaches (to read / reading).

Vocabulary: This conversation demonstrates the many meanings of the word "short". Assign students parts to read. You can answer the questions as you go or wait til the end and answer them all.

Sal: I really want to go to the band concert, but the ticket is twenty dollars. I don't have twenty dollars. I'm a little **short of cash**. Do you think you could lend me some?

Deb: It's kind of **short notice**. If you had told me earlier you needed cash, I could have stopped at the ATM. But now, I don't have any money to spare. Extra cash is **in short supply** at this time of year. I have many gifts to buy for my family.

Sal: I really need money but **short of** stealing it from my parents I don't know where I would get it.

Deb: Sal, you aren't serious. You would never steal money.

Sal: No, of course not. I am only joking. I have some **shortcomings**, but theft is not one of them. I do feel like I got the **short end of the stick** though. My dad gave my sister a hundred dollars for her birthday. I only got fifty because I have a job. Dad felt like I didn't need money as badly as my sister. I got **short-changed**. I didn't get as much money as I should have.

Deb: I didn't know you worked. What is your job?

Sal: I'm a **short-order cook** at the diner. If I was less **short-sighted**, I would have money. But I bought a used motorcycle with my first paycheck. I wasn't thinking about all the money I would have to spend on it every month. I have to buy gas and pay for repairs. Right now my motorcycle has a **short** in the electrical system. I don't have the money to fix it. If I pay to fix my motorcycle, I will have a **shortfall** in my budget. I won't be able to pay my rent and buy food. I guess I should sell my motorcycle.

Deb: I'm sorry, Sal. It is hard to have little money.

Sal: Don't worry about me. Things should improve **shortly**. My boss said he would give me a raise next month.

Deb: That's great. Your boss sounds nice.

Sal: He is nice, but he has a **short fuse**. He gets angry very quickly if you don't do things right. But I follow his instructions carefully, so he likes me.

1. What is Sal short of? What does he ask Deb to do?
2. Deb told Sal he was asking for money on short notice. That means without much warning. Where does Deb say she could have gotten money? Do you think Deb would have loaned Sal money if he had asked earlier? Is it rude to ask a friend to lend you money?
3. Deb says extra cash is in short supply, meaning there isn't much of it. Recently, toilet paper was in short supply at the grocery store. Have you had a hard time finding other items you need at the grocery store? What is in short supply in your grocery store?
4. When Sal says, "short of stealing" he means "other than stealing". He can't think of any other way to get money. Does Sal really plan to steal money?
5. Sal says he has many short-comings, but theft isn't one. He means he has many faults, but he wouldn't steal. One of his faults is jealousy of his sister. Why does Sal feel he got the short end of the stick? Do you think Sal's parents were wrong to give his sister more money than Sal?
6. Sal is short-sighted. In other words he doesn't plan for the future. He only thinks of what he wants right now. What did Sal do that was short-sighted?
7. Sal says he will have a shortfall in his budget if he...
8. A diner is a casual restaurant where you can order typical American food such as hamburgers, sandwiches and breakfast foods. It is simple food served quickly. There is usually a long counter where people sit on stools. There are also a few tables or booths. Food at diners is usually inexpensive. What is Sal's job at the diner? Have you ever eaten at a diner?
9. Sal's boss gets angry quickly. What term does Sal use to describe this? What things make you angry? Do you get angry if people get too close to you at the grocery store or refuse to wear masks?
10. Why does Sal's boss like him?