



# **The Gerund**

## **A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE**

**Patterns**

**Gerund  
vs.  
infinitive**

**Practice**

**The end**

# Gerund as a Subject of a Sentence



- **Fishing** is his hobby.
- **Seeing** is believing.
- **Beating** a child will do more harm than good.
- **Exercising** in hot weather may be harmful.

# Verbs of „Likes and Dislikes” + Gerund



- like, love, be fond of, be interested in, be into, be crazy about
  - mind
  - dislike, hate, be fed up with, be bored with, be tired of
- I have always **loved** **skiing**.
  - Jackson **is fond of** **playing** soccer.
  - Are you **crazy about** **fishing**?
  - I don't **mind** **staying** up late.
  - We are **fed up with** **doing** so much homework.
  - Are you **bored with** **watching** this film?

## EXAMPLES

# Suggestions with Gerund



- What about taking a walk after the workout?
- How about travelling to France next summer?
- She suggested giving a party at her place when the school year finished.
- Do you fancy going out tonight?

# Go + Gerund



- Pete **goes swimming** every afternoon.
- I'd like to **go skiing** in the winter holiday.
- Our family is into sports: dad **goes cycling**, mum **goes running** and I **go hiking** at the weekends.
- My friend never **goes shopping** because he hates queuing at the checkout.

**This pattern usually refers to sports activities and physical recreation.**



# DO the + Gerund



- Mike wanted to **do the washing** and the **cleaning**.
- Do you like **doing the gardening**?
- I have never **done the ironing**.
- Let me **do the washing up**.



**This pattern usually refers to different jobs that you do around the house.**

# SPEND/WASTE + Gerund



- He never **spends** any money **gambling**.
- Try not to **waste** your money **buying** too many unnecessary gadgets.
- We often **spend** hours **playing** board games.
- She **wasted** a lot of time **hanging** out in pubs.

# NEED + Gerund



- My garden **needs** watering.
- You should see your hairdresser because your hair **needs** cutting.
- These windows **need** cleaning.
- We must spend a lot of money on this house: the roof **needs** repairing, the fence **needs** fixing and the walls **need** painting.



**This pattern conveys passive meaning and refers to activities that must be done.**



# Verb + Gerund



- Can't help, can't stand
  - Feel like
  - Get/be used to
  - Look forward to
  - Keep
  - Give up
  - Take to
  - Deny
  - Risk
  - Go on, continue
  - Finish
- We **can't help laughing** at his jokes.
  - I don't **feel like learning**.
  - He **is used to getting** up early.
  - I **look forward to hearing** from you.
  - **Keep walking**
  - He **gave up smoking** but took to **gambling**.
  - She **denied stealing** the ring. You **risk dying** if you **go on taking** drugs.

**EXAMPLES**

# It's no good/use + Gerund



- It is **no use** crying over spilt milk.
- It's **no good** talking about it for so long.
- It is **not much use** buying a car if you can't drive.
- Is it **any good** running away?



# Some verbs can be followed either by the GERUND or the INFINITIVE (1)

Different order of actions

2

1

**V+ing**

**Remember**  
**Forget**  
**Regret**



I remembered locking the door. = First I locked the door, then I remembered it.

I remembered to lock the door. = I remembered that I had to lock the door so I did so.

1

2

**TO V,**



Next

# Some verbs can be followed either by the GERUND or the INFINITIVE (2)

Different meaning

They stopped talking when the teacher entered. = They were talking but finished it when the teacher entered.

**stop**



**V+ing**

They stopped to talk. = They took a break so that they could talk.

**TO V,**



Next

# Some verbs can be followed either by the GERUND or the INFINITIVE (3)

Different aspect

They saw him climbing the tree  
= They saw a part of the action.

See  
Hear  
watch



V+ing

v<sub>1</sub>

They saw him climb the tree. =  
They saw the whole action.



# Some verbs can be followed either by the GERUND or the INFINITIVE (4)

Different meaning

She tried **making** it up with her friend. = She made an experiment to see what would happen.

**try**



**V+ing**

**To V<sub>1</sub>**

She tried **to learn** Japanese. = She made an effort to do so.

# Some verbs can be followed either by the GERUND or the INFINITIVE (5)

Different order of actions

2

1

**For V+ing**

**sorry**



Sorry for being late. = I have been late and now I apologize.

Sorry to interrupt. = I am going to interrupt and I apologize for this.

1

2

**TO V,**



# Finish the following sentences using the gerund of the given verbs.

- His friend suggested (play) tennis in the park.
- She can't stand (do) the (wash up).
- He got used to (commute) easily.
- It is no use (cheat) in a test.
- He doesn't mind (travel) at night.

**His friend suggested playing tennis in the park.**

**She can't stand doing the washing up.**

**He got used to commuting easily.**

**It is no use cheating in a test.**

**He doesn't mind travelling at night.**





# Make sentences using the given words and the gerund.

- Do/shop/ her hobby
- We/ look forward/ meet/ you
- I /not/feel like/ go out/ tonight
- What about/cycle?
- You/ be used to/ work hard?
- Sorry/ keep/you/ wait

**Doing the shopping is her hobby.**

**We look forward to meeting you.**

**I don't feel like going out tonight.**

**What about cycling?**

**Are you used to working hard?**

**Sorry for keeping you waiting.**



# Rewrite the following sentences using the gerund and the verbs in brackets.

- Don't jump off the fence. It isn't a good idea. (no good)
- They just laughed and laughed. (keep)
- Do you want to watch a film? (fancy)
- We give parties at the weekends because we like them. (enjoy)

**It is no good jumping off the fence.**

**They kept laughing.**

**Do you fancy watching a film?**

**We enjoy giving parties at the weekends.**



# Rewrite the following sentences using the gerund and the verbs in brackets.

- They climbed a mountain on their holiday. (go)
- Let's have some beer. (suggest)
- The windows should be cleaned. (need)
- He always plays PC games. (waste)
- Just read. Do not stop. (go on)

**They went climbing on their holiday.**

**He suggested having some beer.**

**The windows need cleaning.**

**He wastes a lot of time playing PC games.**

**Go on reading.**



Next

# Finish the sentences using the gerund or the infinitive

- The criminal denied **killing** (kill) the old lady.
- I tried **carrying** (carry) a bucket of water on the top of my head.
- A witness saw him **breaking** (break) a window of the house.
- I didn't remember **turning** (turn) off the cooker so I went back to check it.
- Don't forget **to cancel** (cancel) your mail when you go on holiday.
- We could not help **going** (go) back to the park when we were there.



# Finish the sentences using the gerund or the infinitive

- Stop talking (talk) and start reading (read) the text.
- Mum watched her son step (step) off the pavement and cross (cross) the street.
- I heard you singing (sing) in the shower.
- They love staring (stare) at the stars.
- He will regret breaking (break) up with his girlfriend.

**How about having  
(have) a break?**



**GOOD BYE!**