

GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES

When a sentence contains two verbs next to each other, the main verb (the one after the subject) is conjugated according to the subject and the tense (past, present, etc.). The second (or third) verb is not conjugated. It is always a gerund or an infinitive. Whether you use a gerund or an infinitive depends on the previous verb (or verb expression) in the sentence.

Verbs that combine with gerunds

enjoy mind finish can't stand
avoid imagine recommend miss
regret can't help risk adore

Examples:

1. In my free time I enjoy **reading** and **watching** movies.
2. It's difficult to imagine **living** in a different city.
3. I generally avoid **eating** foods with a lot of sugar.

Verbs that combine with infinitives

want would like decide ask
hope refuse have promise
intend plan choose learn

Examples:

1. When I was young I wanted **to be** a pilot.
2. My sisters wants **to buy** a new car.
3. I hope **to travel** more next year.

Complete the sentences with a gerund or an infinitive. Use the verb in parentheses.

1. Laura has decided _____ jobs. (change)
2. I learned _____ the piano when I was six. (play)
3. My doctor says I should avoid _____. (smoke)
4. I regret _____ to the part last night because I am extremely tired today. (go)
5. Mom promised _____ me to Disneyland if I get good grades. (take)
6. I don't mind _____ you with your homework. (help)
7. I refuse _____ because I didn't do anything wrong. (apologize)
8. Last night I finished _____ at midnight. (work)

Complete the sentences using a gerund or infinitive phrase. Use your own ideas.

1. My best friends promised _____ if I help her with her homework.
2. On Sunday mornings I really enjoy _____.
3. I never want to risk _____.
4. I can't stand _____ when I'm at home.
5. I always avoid _____ in class.
6. I adore _____ when I travel.
7. I really miss _____. Now don't have much time to do it anymore.
8. In the next five years I hope _____.
9. I decided _____ when I was very young.

Rewrite the sentences using a gerund or an infinitive. Don't change the meaning of the sentences.

1. I really don't want to go out tonight. I don't feel like _____ tonight.
2. Shopping on Christmas Eve is really annoying. I can't stand _____.
3. Michael plays video games for hours every day. Michael really enjoys _____.
4. My boss asked me to work overtime today but I said no. I refused _____.
5. My doctor told me I shouldn't eat fatty foods. My doctors said I should avoid _____.
6. To save money you should make a budget first. I recommend _____ first if you want to save.

Select the correct choice to complete the sentences.

1. Everyone in my family avoids **to drink/ drinking** soda.
2. I can't help **to eat/ eating** chocolate. It's so delicious.
3. Our family has decided **to go/going** to the beach during our summer vacation.
4. John proposed to Sofia, but she refused **to marry/ marrying** him.
5. The students in my class asked **to postpone/ postponing** the exam.
6. I didn't mind **to do/ doing** the job even though I didn't get paid for it.
7. The airline recommends **to arrive/arriving** at the airport at least two hours before your flight.
8. Our parents wanted a huge celebration, but my wife and I chose **to have/ having** a small private ceremony instead.