Contrasting Gerunds and Infinitives

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A1 Before You Read

Discuss these questions.

Driving aggressively means driving in an unsafe and angry manner. How safe do you feel on the road? Do you ever see angry drivers? What do you do?

A2 Read

Read this book excerpt to find out what psychologist Richard Carlson has suggested for aggressive drivers.

Recently, I was driving south from Oakland to San Jose. Traffic was heavy, but it was moving. I noticed an extremely aggressive and angry driver who kept weaving in and out of his lane. He was constantly speeding up and slowing down. Clearly, he was in a hurry. For the most part, I remained in the same lane for the entire 40-mile journey. I was listening to a new audio tape and daydreaming along the way. I enjoyed the trip a great deal because driving gives me a chance to be alone.

As I was exiting off the highway, the aggressive driver came up behind me and raced on by. His weaving, rapid acceleration, and putting families at risk had earned him nothing except perhaps some high blood pressure. On average, he and I had driven at the same speed.
The same principle applies when you see drivers who are speeding past you in order to beat you to the next stoplight. It simply doesn't pay to speed.

When you make the conscious decision to become a less aggressive driver, you begin using your time in the car to loosen up. Instead of tensing your muscles, try to relax them. I even have a few audio tapes that are specifically for muscular relaxation. Sometimes I put one in and listen. By the time I reach my destination, I feel more relaxed than I did before getting into the car. During the course of your lifetime, you'll probably spend a great deal of time driving. You can spend those moments being frustrated, or you can use them wisely. If you do the latter, you'll be a more relaxed person.

Adapted from Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... And It's All Small Stuff

grip: a strong hold or grasp
it doesn't pay: it's not worth doing
latter: the second of two things just mentioned
sweat: (informal) to worry about something

uptight: (informal) tense
weave: to move around things and change directions quickly

A3 After You Read
Write T for true and F for false for each statement about the author.

_F_ 1. He is always in a hurry.

_ _ 2. He gets angry at other drivers when they pass him.

_ _ 3. He sees a direct relationship between stress and driving.

_ _ 4. He tries to find ways to relax in the car.

_ _ 5. He probably follows and honks at aggressive drivers.

_ _ 6. He probably allows himself extra time in order to get to places on time.
Gerunds and Infinitives

Think Critically About Form

A. Look back at the excerpt on page 230 and complete the tasks below.

1. **IDENTIFY** A gerund can act as the subject of a sentence. An example is circled. Find another example.

2. **IDENTIFY** A gerund can directly follow a verb. An example is underlined. Find another example.

3. **RECOGNIZE** Look in the last paragraph. Find an infinitive that directly follows a verb.

4. **EVALUATE** Look at the example sentence below. The infinitive appears at the end of the sentence. What word is in the subject position?
   
   "It simply doesn’t pay to speed."

B. Discuss your answers with the class and read the Form charts to check them.

Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE GERUNDS</th>
<th>AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE INFINITIVES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GERUND</strong></td>
<td><strong>INFINITIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I hate</td>
<td><strong>to drive</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>to drive slowly</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>driving.</td>
<td><strong>to drive in traffic</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>driving slowly.</td>
<td><strong>to drive a big car</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>driving in traffic.</td>
<td><strong>not to drive</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>driving a big car.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I prefer not driving.

Gerunds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GERUNDS AS SUBJECTS</th>
<th>GERUNDS AFTER VERBS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GERUND</td>
<td>VERB PHRASE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owning a car</td>
<td>costs a lot. is expensive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Infinitives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IT SUBJECT... + INFINITIVE</th>
<th>INFINITIVES AFTER VERBS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>VERB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VERB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It costs a lot</td>
<td>to own a car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experts warn people</td>
<td>to drive slowly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want</td>
<td>to drive carefully.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want him</td>
<td>to drive carefully.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overview
- All verbs, except modal auxiliaries, have gerund and infinitive forms.
- A gerund can be one word (*driving*) or part of a longer phrase, with an adverb (*driving slowly*), a prepositional phrase (*driving in traffic*), or an object (*driving a big car*).
- All verbs, except modal auxiliaries, have infinitive forms.
- An infinitive can be two words (*to drive*) or part of a longer phrase with an adverb (*to drive slowly*), a prepositional phrase (*to drive in traffic*), or an object (*to drive a big car*).

### Gerunds as Subjects
- A gerund can function as the subject of a sentence. Gerunds function as singular nouns and take singular verbs. A gerund can be replaced by the pronoun *it*.

  **Owning a car** costs a lot.  
  (It costs a lot.)

### Gerunds After Verbs
- Here are some examples of verbs followed by gerunds (see Appendix 8 for a list of more verbs):

  advise  consider  deny  enjoy  go  miss  practice  suggest
  avoid  delay  dislike  finish  mind  postpone  recommend

### It Subject ... + Infinitive
- Although an infinitive can function as the subject of a sentence (*To own a car is expensive*), this is not common. Instead, the pronoun *it* begins the sentence. It has the same meaning as the infinitive it replaces.

  It costs a lot to own a car. (It = to own a car)

- *It* is followed by *be* or one of a limited group of verbs. For example:

  appear  be  cost  look  pay  seem  take

(Continued on page 234)
Infinitives After Verbs

- Infinitives after verbs appear in one of three patterns:

  **Verb + Infinitive**
  agree  decide  learn  plan  refuse
  appear  hope  offer  seem  wait

  **Verb + Object + Infinitive**
  advise  force  invite  remind  teach  urge
  cause  get  order  require  tell  warn

  **Verb + (Object) + Infinitive**
  (These verbs can be followed by the infinitive with or without an object.)
  ask  expect  need  promise  wish
  choose  help  pay  want  would like

- See Appendix 9 for a list of more verbs followed by infinitives.

---

**B1 Listening for Form**

Listen to each sentence. Do you hear an infinitive or a gerund? Check (✓) the correct column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GERUND</th>
<th>INFINITIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B2 Rephrasing Subject Gerunds as It ... + Infinitive**

Rewrite each of these opinions. Change the subject to *It* and the gerund to an infinitive. Remember to put the infinitive at the end of the sentence.

1. Raising children is not easy.  
   **It's not easy to raise children.**

2. Studying all night is not a good idea.  

3. Walking to work takes too much time.  

4. Getting exercise is important.

5. Owning a house costs a lot of money.

6. Knowing a foreign language can be useful.

**B3 Working on Subject Gerunds and It ... + Infinitive**

A. Work with a partner. Choose one of the topics below and make a list of five common problems related to that topic. Use affirmative and negative gerunds.

- Living in a big city
- Owning a car
- Learning a language
- Living in a foreign country

*Problems with living in a big city: parking, making friends, not having a garden,...*

B. Write two sentences about each of the problems you listed, one with a subject gerund and one with *it* + an infinitive.

*Parking is difficult in a big city.*

*It is difficult to park in a big city.*

**B4 Building Sentences with Gerunds and Infinitives**

Build as many meaningful sentences as possible. Use an item from each column, or from the first and third columns only. Punctuate your sentences correctly.

*He told me to go more slowly.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>he told</th>
<th>she expects</th>
<th>he learned</th>
<th>they advised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
<td>to go more slowly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to speak Spanish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>leaving</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>taking a driving class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B5 Distinguishing Gerunds and Infinitives After Verbs**

Imagine that some people are discussing a controversial new movie. Complete each sentence with *seeing it* or to *see it*.

1. I’m planning ____________

2. Do you recommend ____________

3. You should consider ____________

4. I’ve decided ____________

5. I suggest ____________

6. Don’t expect me ____________

7. He refuses ____________

8. I warn you not ____________

9. You should avoid ____________

10. I urge you ____________
Vocabulary Notes

Short Answers to Questions with Infinitives

Short answers in response to questions with infinitives can contain the main verb + to.

Do you plan to take a vacation soon? Yes, I plan to. / No, I don't expect to.

If you begin a short answer with an infinitive, to is omitted.

What do you want to do later? Take a walk.

When you join two or more infinitives with and or or, to appears only with the first infinitive.

Do you want to eat out or make dinner at home?

B6 Using Short Answers to Questions with Infinitives

Take turns asking and answering questions. Use the verbs in parentheses to form affirmative or negative short answers with infinitives.

1. A: Are you going to graduate in June?
   B: Yes, I hope to. (hope)

2. A: Are your parents taking a vacation this summer?
   B: No, they expect to. (expect)

3. A: Do you think you'll go to the wedding?
   B: Yes, we would like to. (would like)

4. A: Is she interested in going with us?
   B: No, she wants to. (want)

5. A: Are you going to buy a house?
   B: Yes, we plan to soon. (plan)

6. A: Please ask him not to leave so early.
   B: I'm sorry, but he really needs to. (need)
B7 Asking Information Questions with Gerunds and Infinitives

A. Work with a partner. Ask questions using *What* and these words and phrases + the verb *do* as a gerund or an infinitive. Answer the questions and then ask *What about you?*

1. expect/this weekend
   
   *A:* What do you expect to do this weekend?
   
   *B:* Sleep late. *What about you?*
   
   *A:* I expect to study most of the time.

2. enjoy/in your free time

3. suggest/after dinner

4. would like/on your birthday

5. want/during your vacation

6. avoid/on the weekend

7. hope/next summer

8. dislike/in the morning

B. Now write three sentences that compare your partner’s answers with yours. Use the appropriate verbs or phrases with gerunds or infinitives.

Anna expects to sleep late this weekend, but I expect to study most of the time.

B8 Asking Yes/No Questions with Gerunds and Infinitives

Work with a partner. Take turns asking and answering questions with gerunds or infinitives.

1. expect/travel/stay home/next summer

   *A:* Do you expect to travel or stay home next summer?

   *B:* Stay home.

2. suggest/stay home/see a movie/tonight

3. hope/live in a big city/a small town

4. need/study a lot/a little

5. recommend/eat breakfast/skip breakfast

6. want/stay in your apartment/find a new apartment
Verbs Used with Gerunds and Infinitives

Think Critically About Meaning and Use

A. Read the sentences and answer the questions below.
   1a. I stopped to shop at London's Bakery. It's so inexpensive.
   1b. I stopped shopping at London's Bakery. It's so expensive.
   2a. He started to talk as soon as he saw me. He's not shy.
   2b. He started talking as soon as he saw me. He's very friendly.

EVALUATE Which pair has the same meaning? Which pair has a different meaning?

B. Discuss your answers with the class and read the Meaning and Use Notes to check them.

Meaning and Use Notes

Same Meanings with Begin, Start, and Continue

Some verbs are used with both infinitives and gerunds. See Appendix 10 for a list of these verbs.

1. After begin, start, and continue, the infinitive and the gerund have the same meaning. If the main verb is in the continuous, use the infinitive, not the gerund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Gerund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He started to laugh.</td>
<td>He started laughing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We continued to read.</td>
<td>We continued reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It began to snow.</td>
<td>It began snowing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was beginning to snow.</td>
<td>x It was beginning snowing. (INCORRECT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Similar Meanings with *Like, Love, Hate, and Prefer*

> **2** After *like, love, hate, and prefer*, the infinitive and the gerund are similar in meaning. However, sometimes it is more common to use an infinitive to talk about an activity at a specific time, and a gerund to talk about an activity in general.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Gerund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I <em>like</em> to swim early in the morning.</td>
<td>I <em>like</em> swimming and boating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you <em>prefer</em> to play tennis</td>
<td>Do you <em>prefer</em> playing tennis or swimming?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or <em>swim</em> today?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Different and Similar Meanings with *Try*

> **3A** After *try*, the infinitive and the gerund are similar in meaning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Gerund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Try</em> to relax more.</td>
<td><em>Try</em> relaxing more.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> **3B** When *try* is in the past, the infinitive often implies that an action did not occur. The gerund implies that an action occurred but may or may not have been successful.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive (Didn’t Occur)</th>
<th>Gerund (Did Occur)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I <em>tried</em> to <em>take some aspirin</em> for the pain,</td>
<td>I <em>tried</em> <em>taking some aspirin</em> for the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>but I couldn’t open the bottle.</td>
<td>pain, but it didn’t help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I didn’t take any aspirin.)</td>
<td>(I took some aspirin.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Different Meanings with *Remember, Stop, Forget, and Regret*

> **4A** After *remember, stop, forget*, and *regret*, the infinitive refers to an action that happens after the action of the main verb. The gerund refers to an action that happened before the action of the main verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive Action Happens After Verb</th>
<th>Gerund Action Happened Before Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I <em>remembered</em> to mail the letter.</td>
<td>I <em>remembered</em> mailing the letter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I remembered the letter. Then I mailed it.)</td>
<td>(I mailed the letter. Later I remembered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>doing it.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I <em>stopped</em> to listen to him.</td>
<td>I <em>stopped</em> listening to him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I stopped what I was doing. Then I listened</td>
<td>(I was listening to him. Then I stopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to him.)</td>
<td>listening.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on page 240)
4B Forget is more commonly used with an infinitive. With a gerund, it occurs mostly in sentences with will never.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive Action Happens After Verb</th>
<th>Gerund Action Happened Before Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I forgot to pay my telephone bill.</td>
<td>I will never forget living in Ecuador.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I forgot, so then I didn’t pay the bill.)</td>
<td>(I lived there. Now I’ll never forget it.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4C Regret can take either an infinitive or a gerund with verbs such as inform, tell, say, and announce. With all other verbs, regret takes a gerund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive Action Happens After Verb</th>
<th>Gerund Action Happened Before Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I regret to inform you that I’m leaving.</td>
<td>I regret informing you that I’m leaving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I feel regret. Then I inform you.)</td>
<td>(I informed you. Now I regret it.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x I regret to leave. (INCORRECT)</td>
<td>I regret leaving.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C1 Listening for Meaning and Use

Listen to each situation. Choose the sentence that is more likely to follow it.

1. a. He was rude to me.  
   b. He was so grateful to me.  
2. a. It’s a good thing I did, though.  
   b. That was a terrible mistake.  
3. a. But I couldn’t stand the smell.  
   b. It really helped me feel better.  
4. a. But I had no choice.  
   b. But I have no choice.  
5. a. I like the editorials.  
   b. It’s not well written.  
6. a. It’s on my calendar for tomorrow.  
   b. It was so exciting.

C2 Rephrasing Gerunds and Infinitives

Work with a partner. Change each gerund to an infinitive, and each infinitive to a gerund. Then practice the conversations.

1. A: I love skiing. What about you?  
   B: I like skiing, but I prefer staying indoors in the winter.  
   A: I love to ski. What about you?  
   B: I like to ski, but I prefer to stay indoors in the winter.

2. A: I hate to drive in traffic.  
   B: Then you should continue to take the bus home.
A: ________________________________

B: ________________________________

3. A: It started to rain a few minutes ago.
   B: Then let's wait here for a while. I don't like to walk in the rain.
   A: ________________________________
   B: ________________________________

   B: So do I. That's why I prefer to shop late at night.
   A: ________________________________
   B: ________________________________

C3 Making Suggestions

Work in small groups. Choose one of the topics below. Make suggestions by completing each sentence with a gerund or infinitive. Then read your suggestions to the class without mentioning your topic. The class guesses what topic the advice is for.

Reducing stress
Cleaning your apartment
Studying for a test
Finding a job
Improving your English
Making more friends

Suggestions for reducing stress

1. Try ________________________________
2. Consider ________________________________
3. Avoid ________________________________
4. Don't forget ________________________________
5. Plan ________________________________
6. Don't delay ________________________________
7. Aim ________________________________
8. Volunteer ________________________________
C4 Expressing Feelings and Preferences

A. Work with a partner. Jay is visiting his cousin Joe in Chicago. Complete these conversations with the words in parentheses and gerunds or infinitives. In some cases, you may use either one.

1. **Joe:** Another beautiful day! I love getting up/to get up (get up) in the morning.
   
   **Jay:** You're kidding! I really dislike getting up (get up) in the morning. I immediately start worrying (worry) about all of the things I need doing (do).

2. **Joe:** Let's go shopping (shop). I like watching (watch) the crowds, and I'd like buying (buy) some gifts.
   
   **Jay:** Do we have to? I don't like fighting (fight) my way through crowds.

   **Joe:** Well, would you like going (go) to the top of the Sears Tower? The view is great. You can see the lake from there.

   **Jay:** I remember going (go) up there once. It was terrible. I prefer having (have) both of my feet on the ground.

3. **Joe:** I'm beginning feeling (feel) hungry. Let's try finding (find) a good restaurant.
   
   **Jay:** I try avoiding (avoid) eating out. You wouldn't mind cooking (cook) something at home, would you?

B. Now work on your own and write a paragraph about a person that you know. Use gerunds and infinitives to discuss the person's feelings and likes or dislikes.

*My friend Alex is hoping to be a food critic someday, so he loves to eat at new restaurants. He prefers going to five-star French restaurants. That's fine, except that he always wants me to go with him, and he refuses to listen to my objections. He considers...*
More About Gerunds and Infinitives

Think Critically About Form

A. Read the sentences and complete the tasks below.
   a. Instead of tensing your muscles, try to relax them.
   b. During your lifetime, you’ll probably spend a lot of time driving on
      the highway.
   c. You end up saving no time at all.
   d. Some drivers are too anxious to reach their destinations.

1. **ANALYZE** Write the letter of the sentence that contains one of these forms
   before a gerund:
   ___ a verb phrase ending in a noun ___ a phrasal verb (verb + particle)
   ___ a preposition or prepositional phrase

2. **DIFFERENTIATE** Which sentence has a phrase containing an infinitive? What
   part of speech does it follow?

B. Discuss your answers with the class and read the Meaning and Use Notes to
   check them.

Gerunds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VERB PHRASE + GERUND</th>
<th>PREPOSITION + GERUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VERB PHRASE</strong></td>
<td><strong>GERUND</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She</td>
<td>talking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>is busy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He</td>
<td>relaxing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spent some time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PREPOSITION</strong></th>
<th><strong>GERUND</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without</td>
<td>realizing it,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>drivers speed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In addition to</td>
<td>swimming,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>we played tennis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DRIVERS SPEED</strong></th>
<th><strong>REALIZING IT</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drivers speed</td>
<td>without</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>realizing it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BE + ADJECTIVE + PREPOSITION + GERUND</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BE + ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>were afraid of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on page 244)
Some common verb phrases that end in adjectives or nouns can be followed by gerunds:
- be busy
- have a good time
- it's no use
- spend an hour
- waste time
- have fun
- have trouble
- it's (not) worth
- spend time

Examples of one-word prepositions and longer phrases followed by gerunds:
- after
- besides
- in
- instead of
- before
- by
- in addition to
- without

Examples of verb + preposition combinations followed by gerunds:
- approve of
- depend on
- insist on
- talk about
- work on
- believe in
- disapprove of
- look forward to
- think about
- worry about

Examples of be + adjective + preposition combinations followed by gerunds:
- be accustomed to
- be good at
- be surprised at
- be used to
- be afraid of
- be interested in
- be tired of
- be worried about

Phrasal verbs (end up, call off) can be followed by gerunds.

See Appendix 8 for a list of more combinations with prepositions followed by gerunds.

See Appendix 15 for a list of common phrasal verbs.

### Infinitives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE + INFINITIVE</th>
<th>IN ORDER + INFINITIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VERB</strong></td>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She</td>
<td>was</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Put on some music

(in order) to relax.

(in order + not) INFINITIVE

In order not to panic, take a deep breath.

Many adjectives can be followed by infinitives.
- afraid
- eager
- excited
- hesitant
- sorry
- determined
- embarrassed
- happy
- ready
- surprised

See Appendix 9 for a list of more adjectives followed by infinitives.

Infinitives do not directly follow prepositions.

Infinitives may follow the expression in order. They are called purpose infinitives.
In affirmative purpose infinitives, *in order* may be omitted. In negative purpose infinitives, *in order* is necessary.

D1 Listening for Form

Listen to this conversation. Write the gerunds or infinitives you hear.

A: You should consider __________ a vacation. You could spend some time __________.

B: I can't. I'm busy __________ on a project that's due soon. My boss has told me __________ it as quickly as possible.

A: I know. That's the point. Aren't you sick of __________?

B: Well, instead of __________ a long vacation, I might be interested in __________ away for a weekend. But I'd have trouble __________ before noon on Saturday. I save Saturday morning for __________ on my office email.

A: Didn't you promise __________ more?

D2 Using Gerunds After Prepositions

Follow each preposition with the gerund form of the expressions below. Then complete each sentence.

- clean your apartment
- cook dinner
- do the laundry
- find a job
- look for an apartment
- reduce stress
- take a trip
- use a computer

1. Before __________,

2. After __________

3. Instead of __________

4. Besides __________

5. By __________

6. In addition to __________

7. Before __________

8. After __________
D3 Choosing Between Gerunds and Infinitives

A. Work with a partner. Switch roles for each question.

Student A: Ask a *What* question using the phrase and the verb *do* as a gerund or an infinitive.

Student B: Answer and then ask *What about you?*

1. be hesitant
   
   A: *What are you hesitant to do?*
   
   B: *I'm hesitant to take too many classes. What about you?*
   
   A: *I'm hesitant to look for a part-time job.*

2. be good at

3. be eager

4. be afraid of

5. be ready/right now

6. be accustomed to

7. be determined/before you are 50

8. look forward to/next year

B. Report three of your partner's answers to the class using full sentences with gerunds or infinitives.

   *Leroy is hesitant to take too many classes.*

D4 Working on Purpose Infinitives

A. Complete these sentences about errands with affirmative purpose infinitives. Use your own ideas. You can omit *in order.*

1. First I went to the bank *to get some money.*

2. Then I stopped at the dry cleaners

3. Next I went to the drugstore near my home

4. After that I stopped by the library

5. On the way home, I stopped at the gas station

B. Work with a partner. Choose two items from the suggested topics below and write simple instructions for each. Use affirmative and negative purpose infinitives.

- how to open a jar of jelly, a can of beans, a box of crackers, or a carton of juice
- how to operate your DVD player or computer
- how to start your car, drive safely in traffic, fix a flat tire, or fill your car with gas

*To open a jar of jelly, grip the jar tightly and twist the lid.*

*In order to loosen the top, run it under hot water.*
Interpreting Gerunds and Infinitives

Think Critically About Meaning and Use

A. Read the sentences and answer the questions below.
   1a. Tom worries about Jane's driving at night.
   1b. Tom worries about driving at night.
   2a. Susan wants Sam to come early.
   2b. Susan wants to come early.

1. **ANALYZE** Compare 1a and 1b. In each sentence, who is driving?
2. **ANALYZE** Compare 2a and 2b. In each sentence, who might come early?

B. Discuss your answers with the class and read the Meaning and Use Notes to check them.

Meaning and Use Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Performer of Gerund Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1A</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gerund Only</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Possessive Adjective + Gerund</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **1B** | When a gerund occurs after a verb, an object pronoun can replace the possessive adjective. Sentences with object pronouns convey a less formal tone than those with possessive adjectives. |
| **Verb + Object Pronoun + Gerund** | We were surprised at him passing the exam. |

(Continued on page 248)
## The Performer of Infinitive Actions

**2A** Like other actions, the actions expressed by infinitives are performed by someone. When an infinitive directly follows a verb, the performer of the infinitive action is the sentence subject. When an infinitive follows an object, the performer of the infinitive action is the object.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb + Infinitive Only</th>
<th>Verb + Object + Infinitive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I want to take a different route. (I may take a different route.)</td>
<td>I want him to take a different route. (He may take a different route.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2B** *Help* + object can be followed by an infinitive or a base form with no change in meaning. The verbs *make, have,* and *let* + object are followed by the base form of a verb, but not the infinitive. Like all objects before infinitives, the objects of these verbs perform the action expressed by the base form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb + Object + Base Form of Verb</th>
<th>Verb + Object + Infinitive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He helped me get there safely.</td>
<td>He helped me to get there safely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He made me get some rest.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He had me call the doctor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He let me call the hospital.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## E1 Listening for Meaning and Use

Listen to each situation and choose the statement that is true.

1. **a.** My friend shouldn’t work so hard.  
   **b.** The doctor shouldn’t work so hard.

2. **a.** I recommended some exercises.  
   **b.** The doctor recommended some exercises.

3. **a.** She called a health club.  
   **b.** We called a health club.

4. **a.** We called in the evening.  
   **b.** They called us in the evening.

5. **a.** We made arrangements.  
   **b.** The manager made arrangements.

6. **a.** We invited him.  
   **b.** He invited us.

7. **a.** He drove in the rain.  
   **b.** I drove in the rain.

8. **a.** The manager left a deposit.  
   **b.** We left a deposit.
**E2 Expressing Intentions and Desires**

Choose either Situation A or B and complete the sentences that you might say. Use sentences with appropriate infinitives or gerunds. Add an object before infinitives or a possessive adjective before gerunds, if possible.

**Situation A:** You are going to run for president.

**Situation B:** You are going to resign from your position because of a scandal.

1. I have decided to run for president.
2. I appreciate your encouraging me so much.
3. I expect ____________________________
4. I invite ____________________________
5. I'm concerned about ____________________________
6. I urge ____________________________
7. I want ____________________________
8. I don't mind ____________________________

**E3 Talking About Teaching**

**A.** In small groups, discuss the best way to teach someone to do something. Choose one of the suggested topics below. Use the verbs make, let, help, and have followed by an infinitive or base form where possible.

- teaching a foreign friend how to speak your language
- teaching a friend how to drive
- teaching a child how to cook

A: To teach a foreign friend your language, you need to be very patient.
B: It is important to practice as much as possible.
C: Yes. Also, let him make mistakes. That’s how you help him make progress.

**B.** Write a summary of your discussion and read it to the class. Find out whether the class agrees with your methods.
Think Critically About Meaning and Use

A. Read each sentence and the statement that follows. Write T if the statement is true and F if it is false.

1. I forgot to mail the letter.
   - F I mailed the letter.

2. I didn't remember to take out the garbage.
   - I took out the garbage.

3. I'll never forget opening that letter.
   - I opened the letter.

4. I always avoid eating sweets.
   - I eat sweets.

5. They permitted me to leave.
   - I left.

6. She stopped to eat lunch.
   - She didn't eat lunch.

7. I tried soaking my ankle, but it still hurts.
   - I soaked my ankle.

8. I heard about his winning the race.
   - He won the race.

9. He was surprised at my failing the exam.
   - I failed the exam.

10. I had him complain to the manager.
    - I complained to the manager.

B. Discuss these questions in small groups.

1. **PREDICT** Look at sentence 2. How would the meaning change if the speaker had said, "I didn't remember taking out the garbage"?

2. **PREDICT** Look at sentence 6. How would the meaning change if the speaker had said, "She stopped eating lunch."
Edit

Find the errors in these paragraphs and correct them.

Unfortunately, it is very common to encounter aggressive drivers every day. They are usually trying to get somewhere in a hurry. Their speeding can cause them to follow too closely or change lanes frequently without signaling.

In order to avoid becoming an aggressive driver, there are a number of rules following. First, allow enough time to reaching your destination. Second, change your schedule to keep from drive during rush hours. Third, call ahead for explain if you are going to be late. Then you can relax.

If you see an aggressive driver, try get out of the way safely. Never challenge an aggressive driver by speed up or attempting to hold your position in your lane. Don’t let others make you driving dangerously. You need be in control at all times.
Write

Write a persuasive essay advising readers how to manage the stress in their lives. Use gerunds and infinitives.

1. **Brainstorm** Research your topic on the Internet or at the library. Make a list of all the different ways to manage stress (e.g., using relaxation techniques, doing leisure-time activities, and so on.) Use these categories to help you organize your ideas into paragraphs.
   - **Introduction:** What role does stress play in our lives? Why is it important that people learn how to manage stress?
   - **Analysis/Advice:** Choose 2–3 methods and devote a paragraph to each. What is the method? Why do you think it is effective? Why should readers try it?
   - **Conclusion:** What “call to action” can you give readers to persuade them to take your ideas seriously?

2. **Write a First Draft** Before you write your first draft, read the checklist below and look at the examples in A2 on pages 230–231 and C3 on page 241. Write your draft using gerunds and infinitives.

3. **Edit** Read your work and check it against the checklist below. Circle grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO I...</th>
<th>YES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>use gerunds and gerund phrases as subjects and objects, and after prepositions or common verb phrases?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>use the correct gerund or infinitive form after specific verbs?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>use at least one example of a sentence with It... + infinitive?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make suggestions with imperatives + appropriate gerunds or infinitives?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Peer Review** Work with a partner to help you decide how to fix your errors and improve the content. Use the checklist above.

5. **Rewrite Your Draft** Using the comments from your partner, write a final draft.

---

Dealing with stress is a fact of living in the modern world. Our lives are all about keeping the bills paid, juggling career and family, and generally never having enough hours in the day. The bad news is that living with a high level of stress can lead to...