

Grammar Booster

Infinitives and Gerunds

Focus: Understanding when to use **to + verb** or **verb + -ing** in natural speech



Welcome: What Are Infinitives and Gerunds?

In English, some verbs are followed by other verbs. These second verbs are either **infinitives** or **gerunds**.

Today, you'll learn:

- What infinitives and gerunds are
- Which verbs take each one
- How to **use them correctly in sentences**
- Common **spoken uses** in everyday life

Improves clarity when **talking about likes, decisions, plans, or habits**



What Is an Infinitive?

An **infinitive** = “to” + base verb

Examples:

- to go
- to eat
- to speak

Used after certain verbs like:

- want, decide, hope, plan, need, forget

Examples:

- “I want **to go** home.”
- “She decided **to leave**.”
- “We hope **to travel** this year.”

Task: Tutor prompts base verb (“plan”) → student builds example with infinitive:

1. want
2. decide
3. hope

What Is a Gerund?

A **gerund** = verb + **-ing** used as a noun

Examples:

- going
- eating
- playing

Used after verbs like:

- enjoy, like, love, hate, finish, avoid, mind

Examples:

- “I enjoy **reading**.”
- “He finished **cleaning**.”
- “She avoids **driving** at night.”

Task: Tutor gives topic → student makes “like/love/hate” gerund sentence:

- coffee
- pizza
- football



Common Verbs + Infinitives vs Gerunds

Memorise which verbs take what:

Verbs + Infinitive	Verbs + Gerund
want, need, plan, hope	enjoy, mind, avoid, finish
decide, try, agree	like, love, hate

Tip: If you're talking about a **goal or future action**, use **to + verb**

If you're talking about **something happening or habitual**, use **-ing**

Task: Tutor says verb → student chooses correct structure:

- want → “I want **to go** home.”
- enjoy →
- decide →

Verbs That Take Both (But Change Meaning)

Some verbs can use **both**, but the meaning changes:

Verb	+ Gerund	+ Infinitive
stop	"I stopped smoking ." (quit)	"I stopped to smoke ." (paused to smoke)
try	"Try pressing the button."	"Try to press the button."
remember	"I remember meeting her."	"Remember to meet her."

Subtle but important for clear, correct communication

Task: Tutor gives sentence → student says meaning + chooses form:

1. "Try to press the button."
2. "I remember meeting her."
3. "Remember to meet her."

Speaking Activity: What Do You Like?

Task: Respond to the tutor's questions using the correct form:
verb + -ing or to + verb."

Tutor: "What do you enjoy doing on weekends?"

Student: (Example) "I enjoy going out."

Follow-up questions:

"Do you plan to travel?"

"Do you hope to change your job?"

Natural Conversation: Decisions & Habits

Tutor prompts:

- “What did you decide to do last weekend?”
- “Do you avoid doing anything unhealthy?”
- “Have you started learning anything new?”

Student uses both forms in replies:

Example: “I decided to stay home.”

Pronunciation Focus

Natural linking:

- “Want to go” → /wanna go/
- “Like going” → /like go-ing/
- “Need to eat” → /need to eat/
- “Enjoy cooking” → /en-joy cook-ing/

Tutor models, student repeats: for rhythm and fluency

Spot the Mistake

Task: Tutor says incorrect version - student fixes aloud:

✗ “I want going out.”

✗ “He enjoys to play football.”

✗ “She stopped to drink coffee.” (wrong context)



Review & Final Speaking Task

Well done!

Today, you learned:

- Infinitives = “to + verb” (plans, goals)
- Gerunds = “verb + -ing” (likes, habits)
- Some verbs take both, but meanings change
- You practised full sentence speaking and correction

Final fluency task:

1. Tell your tutor 3 things you enjoy doing.
2. Tell your tutor 2 things you plan to do this year.
3. Tell your tutor one habit you avoid.

Then, ask your tutor the same questions!

