



## INFINITIVES AND GERUNDS

INFINITIVES: (to) go, (to) break, (to) see etc.

- **ING FORMS** (ALSO CALLED 'GERUNDS): *going, breaking, seeing* etc.

- We can use both *-ing* forms and infinitives as subjects (but *-ing* forms are more common).

**Smoking** is bad for you. (More natural than **To smoke** is bad for you.)

- We can use infinitives to say why we do things.

I got up early **to catch** the 7.15 train.

- After some verbs we use infinitives; after others we use *-ing* forms.

I expect **to pass** my exams. (NOT ~~I expect passing~~ ...)

I'll finish **studying** in June. (NOT ~~I'll finish to study~~ ...)

- We can use infinitives after some adjectives and nouns.

She's ready **to leave**.

I'm glad **to see** you.

I've got work **to do**.

- After prepositions we use *-ing* forms, not infinitives.

You can't live without **eating**. (NOT ... ~~without to eat~~.)

I usually watch TV before **going** to bed. (NOT ... ~~before to go to bed~~.)

- Infinitives often have **to** before them, but not always.

I want to go home, but I can't **go** now.

## EXERCISES

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1. Put in words from the box, with or without to.

Model: I'm writing to ask for your help.

Can you lend me some money?

1. Maria went to America \_\_\_\_\_ English.

2. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ me with the cooking?

3. I'd like \_\_\_\_\_ you for a minute.

4. Where did you \_\_\_\_\_ those boots?

5. I expect \_\_\_\_\_ from my family soon.

6. I don't want \_\_\_\_\_ by bus.

2. Write sentences with infinitives.

Model: We wanted to go to the cinema, so Mum gave us some money.

Mum gave us some money to go to the cinema.

1. I wanted to clean the top of the fridge, so I stood on a chair.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Roger wants to buy a book, so he's gone to town.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. We wanted to get warm, so we moved closer to the fire.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. If you want to open the front door, use this key.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. I wanted to tell George about the meeting, so I left a note.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Jane wanted to earn some pocket money, so she got a part-time job.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Underline the correct word or phrase.

a. New research shows some young people can't help / consider / risk eating fast food which contains large amounts of sugar, salt and animal fat.

b. Many young people also avoid / enjoy / keep taking any exercise.

c. They don't even avoid / enjoy / suggest walking to school or playing active games with their friends.

d. For too many young people, enjoyment feels like / involves / keeps sitting in front of a computer playing games.

e. Of course if they involve / keep / suggest doing this, they are very likely to have health problems at an early age.

f. Health experts consider / mean / suggest taking hard exercise at least three times a week.

g. This can't help / keeps / means running, cycling or swimming.

h. So even if you don't avoid / feel like / risk taking exercise, it's important to organize regular exercise activities.

- i. You could *go / involve / practice* swimming or jogging, for example.
- j. You may also *consider / involve / keep* changing your diet, and eating more fruit and fresh vegetables.

4. Complete the text with the *-ing* or *to-* infinitive form of the verbs in brackets.

People who remember (do) \_\_\_\_\_ everything they have planned are usually people who organize their tasks in some way, and avoid (get) \_\_\_\_\_ into a muddle. A shopping list is a good example of this technique, provided you remember (take) \_\_\_\_\_ the list with you when you go (shop) \_\_\_\_\_.

It's sometimes possible to remember a fact, for example, if first of all you stop (think) \_\_\_\_\_ for a few moments. When you try (remember) \_\_\_\_\_ something, this will be easier if you have learned it in an organized way. If you are not sure how to do this, try (write) \_\_\_\_\_ brief notes about the text you are reading. Many people find this an effective way of learning. After all, it's easy to read something and not understand or remember it, usually because you have stopped (pay) \_\_\_\_\_ attention.

5. Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the word in capitals.

Fossils are the remains of animals, plants, and other organisms preserved in rocks.  
The word fossil comes from the Latin word *fossus*, meaning 'having been dug up'.

a. Does fossil collecting interest you? INTERESTED

\_\_\_\_\_ *Are you interested in fossil collecting?* \_\_\_\_\_

b. Do you have to walk distances? INVOLVE

\_\_\_\_\_

c. I often find rocks that aren't really fossils. KEEP

\_\_\_\_\_

d. When you look for fossils on a cliff, you could fall. RISK

\_\_\_\_\_

e. I really think this is the wrong place to look for fossils. HELP

\_\_\_\_\_

f. You have to get up early to go on the club trip. MEANS

\_\_\_\_\_

g. I left my hammer at home. REMEMBER

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h. I want to sit down and have a rest!

FEEL

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i. I know how to find fossils.

GOOD

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j. Don't take up a hobby unless you're serious about it.

WORTH

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6. Rewrite each sentence so that it begins with an *-ing* form as subject.

a. It can be very relaxing to collect fossils.

Collecting fossils can be very exciting.

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b. It can be very difficult to give up smoking.

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c. It isn't a good idea to do an exam without revising.

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d. It is fun to learn a new sport.

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e. It takes lots of hard work to learn a foreign language.

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f. It was very exciting to see my favorite band play alive.

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g. It will never be possible to live on Mars.

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h. It took a long time to write a report.

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i. It is so tiring walking up this mountain!

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j. It is illegal to drive without a license.

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