



UNIT 20. GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES (2)

Adapted from:

-Capel, A. & Sharp. W. (2008). *Objective First Certificate. Self-Study Student's Book*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [henceforth referred to as *OFC*]

-Murphy, R. (2004). *English Grammar in Use with Answers. A Self-study Reference and Practice Book for Intermediate Students of English*. (3rd revised edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [henceforth referred to as *EGU*]

-Vince, M. (2009). *First Certificate Language Practice: English Grammar and Vocabulary. With Key* (4th ed.). Oxford: MacMillan [henceforth referred to as *FCLP*]

Explanation on unit 20.2 (pp. 130 and 205-206) from *OFC* (see Assignment 7 for the related activities in *EGU*)

1. Verbs with a slight change in meaning whether used with **-ing** or **to + inf** (UNIT 20.2)

In British English, there is sometimes a difference between *I like to + inf* and *I like + ing*:

I like to get up early/I like getting up early.

"I like doing something" means: I enjoy it.

"I like to do something" means: I think it is a good idea.

Watch out:

Would like, would love, would hate, would prefer are followed by *to + inf*:

Would you like to go for a drink?

Would mind is followed by *-ing*:

Would you mind closing the door, please?

Prefer to do and *prefer doing*:

I prefer noun (phrase) to (noun) phrase.

I prefer (travel by train) to (drive).

I prefer to (travel) rather than (drive).

I prefer red to pink.

I prefer travelling by train to driving.

I prefer to travel by train rather than drive.



2. Verbs followed by either infinitive with to or –ing with little or no change of meaning (UNIT 20.2)

attempt, begin, continue, intend, start

I attempted to leave/leaving but the police stopped me.

She began crying her eyes out./She began to cry her eyes out.

3. Verbs followed by either infinitive with to or –ing or a that clause, with change of meaning (UNIT 20.2)

forget

I forgot to buy any coffee.

(I didn't remember)

I forgot the coffee.

I won't forget to go there.

(I'll remember)

I won't forget meeting you.

(It will stay in my memory)

I forgot that I had invited ten people to lunch.

remember

Please remember to lock the door.

(don't forget a future action)

I remember locking the door.

(remember a past action)

I remembered Sue's birthday.

I remembered that I had left my keys behind.



stop

- I stopped going to evening classes.* (give up)
I stopped to buy some coffee. (in order to do something)
I stopped the car.

try

- I tried to get up early, but I couldn't.* (try and fail)
Why don't you try getting up early? (suggesting an action)
I tried a new kind of toothpaste.

need

- You need to work harder if you want to make progress.*
The batteries in the radio need changing. (passive)

mean

- I mean to work hard at university.* (intention)
It will mean going to the library more often. (involve/this is the result)

go on

- When I've finished shopping, I think I'll go on to see a film.* (a change of activity)
Please don't stop, go on showing your photos. (continue)



4. To... (afraid to do) and preposition + -ing (afraid of -ing)

(see *EGU*, unit 66)

I was afraid (go) near the dog because I was afraid (be bitten).

I was afraid to go near the dog because I was afraid of being bitten.

You are **afraid to do** something because you **are afraid of** something happening to you as a result.

I'm interested in joining the club.

I was interested to hear that she had joined the club.

(interested to hear/see/read/learn/know/find)

We are sorry (hear) Nicky lost her job.

I am sorry (shout) at you yesterday.

We are sorry to hear that Nicky lost her job.

I am sorry for / about shouting at you yesterday.

I am sorry I shouted at you.

5. See somebody do and see somebody doing (see *EGU*, unit 67)

I saw Tom get into his car and drive away.

[he did x and I saw it]

I saw him walking along the street.

[he was doing it and I saw it]

I didn't hear you coming.

I could hear it raining.



6. -ing clauses (see EGU, unit 68)

Feeling tired, I went to bed early.

Kate is in the kitchen making coffee.

Having finished her work, she went home /

After finishing her work, she went home.

Review of Unit 7.1 (Gerunds and Infinitives 1) and p. 201 in OFC

7. Verbs followed by –ing or a noun

like, love, hate, can't bear, enjoy, dislike, can't help, mind, can't stand, prefer

These verbs and expressions are normally followed by –ing:

Paula hates cooking.

I don't like people screaming at me.

My favourite Elvis' song is "Can't help falling in love with you".

Other verbs followed by –ing or a noun:

avoid, be worth, fancy, keep, practise, risk.

Try to avoid walking as much as possible.

It's not worth waiting for a bus at this time of the day.

I don't fancy going out this evening.

I wish you wouldn't keep interrupting.

We can't risk starting a fire in the forest.



8. Verbs followed by –ing, a that clause, or a noun

admit, consider, deny, imagine, report

Jack admitted stealing the money.

Jack admitted that he had stolen the money.

When accused of stealing the money, Jack admitted it.

Have you considered taking up jogging?

You must consider that Jim has never driven abroad before.

SUGGEST

- *Martin suggested going to the cinema.*

- *Martin suggested that we went to the cinema.*

*(NOT * Martin suggested to go the cinema)*

Is Martin going to the cinema with us?

- *Martin suggested that I should go to the cinema to switch off.*

*(NOT * Martin suggested me to go to the cinema)*

9. Verbs followed by infinitive with to

afford, appear, choose, fail, refuse, seem, tend, wait

I can't afford to go on holiday abroad this year.

The car appears to have broken down.

I chose not to go to university.

Gerry failed to arrive on time.



10. Verbs followed by infinitive with *to*, or a *that* clause

agree, appear, arrange, decide, demand, desire, expect, hope, intend, learn, plan, pretend, promise, seem, threaten

Tom agreed to meet us outside the cinema.

Tom agreed that he would meet us outside the cinema.

We arranged to leave at 5.30.

We arranged that we would leave at 5.30.

John decided to take the bus.

John decided that he would take the bus.

He seems to have been ill. (Perfect infinitive)

I pretended to be reading the magazine. (Continuous infinitive).

11. VERB + ING OR VERB or OBJECT + TO

advise, recommend, encourage, allow, permit, forbid

I wouldn't recommend going to that restaurant.

I wouldn't recommend anyone to go to that restaurant.

12. VERBS FOLLOWED BY TO + INFINITIVE + OBJECT

ask, force, enable, encourage, get, invite, manage, offer, order, persuade, prepare, remind, tell, teach, want, warn

Don't force her to study if she doesn't want to.

I ordered him to leave the room.

I got somebody to teach me to use computers.

David asked me to give this to you.

13. VERB FOLLOWED BY TO + INFINITIVE OR Ø INFINITIVE

help

I helped her move out.

I helped her to move out.



14. YOU CAN USE A QUESTION WORD (WHAT/HOW, ETC.) + TO + INFINITIVE AFTER THE FOLLOWING VERBS:

advise, ask, decide, know, remember, forget, explain, learn, show, understand, wonder, teach

I got somebody to teach me to use computers (or how to use computers).

Do you understand what to do?

She explained to me how to get there.