**Gerund after prepositions (nouns)**

**We use the Gerund after prepositions.**

noun + preposition

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| **We use the Gerund after the following nouns:** | | | |
| advantage of | What is the advantage of farming over hunting? | | |
| chance of | There's a chance of catching a cold these days. | | |
| choice between | There's a choice between flying to London Heathrow or Stansted. | | |
| danger of | Peggy is in danger of making a mistake. | | |
| difficulty in | He has difficulty in sending SMS. | | |
| doubt about | He is in doubt about buying the correct software for his computer system. | | |
| hope of | There's little hope of catching Schumacher's Ferrari. | | |
| idea of | I like the idea of setting up a new email account. | | |
| interest in | There's no interest in writing letters. | | |
| method of | This is a simple method of finding solutions. | | |
| opportunity of | There's some opportunity of bringing her parents together again. | | |
| possibility of | These new wheels offer the possibility of riding tubeless. | | |
| problem of | He has the problem of swimming too slow. | | |
| reason for | There's a real reason for winning the contest. | | |
| risk of | There's a risk of digging too deep. | | |
| trouble for | He was in trouble for stealing. | | |
| way of | This is a new way of building a wall. | | |
| **We use the Gerund after the following phrases:** | | |
| to be busy | | He is busy reading the paper. |
| couldn't help | | She couldn't help eating another apple. |
| don't mind | | I don't mind telling them my opinion. |
| feel like | | We feel like having a cup of tea. |
| how about | | How about walking home instead of taking the car? |
| it's (no) good | | It's no good talking to this girl. |
| it's no use | | It's no use talking to the headmaster. |
| spend one's time | | They spend their time reading. |
| there's no | | There's no cheating anymore. |
| there's no point | | There's no point in complaining further. |
| what about | | What about going to the zoo? |
| worth | | The book is worth reading. |

# Gerund after special verbs

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| --- | --- |
| admit | He admitted having driven too fast. |
| avoid | They avoid going on holiday on Saturdays. |
| carry on | If we carry on sleeping so badly, we may need help. |
| consider | Ralph is considering buying a new house. |
| delay | I delayed telling Max the news. |
| deny | She denies reading the book. |
| dislike | We dislike reading poems. |
| can't help | He couldn't help falling in love with her. |
| enjoy | I enjoy playing chess. |
| finish | They finished working in the garden. |
| give up | Susan gives up playing ice-hockey. |
| imagine | He imagined driving a new car. |
| include | Your responsibility includes taking reservations on the phone. |
| involve | The project will involve growing plants. |
| justify | I cannot justify paying $100 for this ticket. |
| keep (on) | They keep on running. |
| mention | Did Alex ever mention playing baseball? |
| mind | I don't mind sleeping on the couch. |
| miss | They miss playing with their friends. |
| practise | She practised playing hockey. |
| regret\* | Do you regret having mentioned it? |
| risk | You risk catching a cold. |
| suggest | She suggested flying to Cairo. |

# \* After regret the to-infinitive is used when announcing bad news: We regret to inform you that the flight to Munich has been cancelled. Gerund after prepositions (verbs)

## We use the Gerund after prepositions.

verb + preposition

Exception: to   
Here we use the phrase:  
looking forward to + Gerund

Example:  
I'm looking forward to seeing you We use the Gerund after the following phrases: soon.

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| --- | --- |
| accuse of | They were accused of breaking into a shop. |
| agree with | I agree with playing darts. |
| apologize for | They apologize for being late. |
| believe in | She doesn't believe in getting lost in the wood. |
| blame for | The reporter is blamed for writing bad stories. |
| complain about | She complains about bullying. |
| concentrate on | Do you concentrate on reading or writing? |
| congratulate sb. on | I wanted to congratulate you on making such a good speech. |
| cope with | He is not sure how to cope with getting older. |
| decide against | They decided against stealing the car. |
| depend on | Success may depend on becoming more patient. |
| dream about/of | Sue dreams of being a pop star. |
| feel like | They feel like going to bed. |
| get used to | You must get used to working long hours. |
| insist on | The girls insisted on going out with Mark. |
| look forward to | I'm looking forward to seeing you soon. |
| prevent sb. from sth. | How can I prevent Kate from working in this shop? |
| rely on sth. | He doesn't rely on winning in the casino. |
| succeed in | How then can I succeed in learning chemistry? |
| specialize in | The firm specialized in designing websites. |
| stop sb. from | I stopped Andrew from smoking. |
| talk about/of | They often talk about travelling to New Zealand. |
| think of | Frank thinks of playing chess. |
| warn sb. against | We warned them against using this computer. |
| worry about | The patient worries about having the check-up. |

# Gerund after prepositions (adjectives)

## We use the Gerund after prepositions.

adjective + preposition We use the Gerund after the following phrases:

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| --- | --- |
| afraid of | They are afraid of losing the match. |
| angry about/at | Pat is angry about walking in the rain. |
| bad at good at | John is good at working in the garden. |
| clever at | He is clever at skateboarding. |
| crazy about | The girl is crazy about playing tennis. |
| disappointed about/at | He is disappointed about seeing such a bad report. |
| excited about | We are excited about making our own film. |
| famous for | Sandy is famous for singing songs. |
| fed up with | I'm fed up with being treated as a child. |
| fond of | Hannah is fond of going to parties. |
| glad about | She is glad about getting married again. |
| happy about/at | The children are not happy about seeing a doctor. |
| interested in | Are you interested in writing poems? |
| keen on | Joe is keen on drawing. |
| proud of | She is proud of riding a snowboard. |
| sick of | We're sick of sitting around like this. |
| sorry about/for | He's sorry for eating in the lesson. |
| tired of | I'm tired of waiting for you. |
| used to | She is used to smoking. |
| worried about | I'm worried about making mistakes. |

# Gerund after prepositions

We use the Gerund after the following prepositions:

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| --- | --- |
| after | After having a shower, I waited for Steven. |
| before | The tablet must not be taken before getting up in the morning. |
| by | I manage it by working much longer than 40-hour weeks. |
| in spite of | In spite of studying a lot he didn't pass the exams. |
| on | She insisted on calling her sister. |
| without | He told the joke without laughing. |

# Gerund or Progressive/Continuous

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|  |
| Reading books is great fun. |
| He likes reading books. |
| He is looking forward to reading books at the weekend. |
| He is keen on reading books. |
| He is used to reading books. |
| What about reading books? |
| He likes the idea of reading books. |
| After reading the book, he went to bed. |
| I remember having read this book. - Passive |

# Gerund and Infinitive Gerund and Infinitive (no difference in meaning)

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| --- | --- |
| begin | He began talking. He began to talk. |
| continue | They continue smoking. They continue to smoke. |
| hate | Do you hate working on Saturdays? Do you hate to work on Saturdays? |
| like | I like swimming. I like to swim. |
| love | She loves painting. She loves to paint. |
| prefer | Pat prefers walking home. Pat prefers to walk home. |
| start | They start singing. They start to sing. |

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| --- | --- |
| **We use the Gerund or the Infinitive after the following verbs. There are two possible structures after these verbs.  Gerund: verb + -ing Infinitive: verb + person + to-infinitive** | |
| advise | They advise walking to town. They advise us to walk to town. |
| allow | They do not allow smoking here. They do not allow us to smoke here. |
| encourage | They encourage doing the test. They encourage us to do the test. |
| permit | They do not permit smoking here. They do not permit us to smoke here. |

We use the following structures with the word recommend:

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| --- | --- |
| recommend | They recommend walking to town. They recommend that we walk to town. |

# Gerund and Infinitive - difference in meaning

Some verbs have different meaning. (when used with Gerund or Infinitive)

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|  | **GERUND** | **INFINITIVE** |
| **forget** | He'll never forget spending so much money on his first computer. | Don't forget to spend money on the tickets. |

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|  | **GERUND** | **INFINITIVE** |
| **go on** | Go on reading the text. | Go on to read the text. |

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|  | **GERUND** | **INFINITIVE** |
| **mean** | You have forgotten your homework again. That means phoning your mother. | I meant to phone your mother, but my mobile didn't work. |

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|  | **GERUND** | **INFINITIVE** |
| **remember** | I remember switching off the lights when I went on holiday. | Remember to switch off the lights when you go on holiday. |

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|  | **GERUND** | **INFINITIVE** |
| **stop** | Stop reading the text. | Stop to read the text. |

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|  | **GERUND** | **INFINITIVE** |
| **try** | Why don't you try running after the dog? | I tried to run after the dog, but I was too slow. |

# The Infinitive with to

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| after: | the first | Gagarin was the first to fly in a spaceship. |
| the last | Peter was the last to watch the film. |
| the next | He is the next to get his passport. |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| after: | adjectives | I'm happy to be here. |
| It's better not to smoke. |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| after: | certain verbs  (agree, choose, forget, hope, learn, promise, regret\*, want, …) | I learn to drive a car. |

\* After regret the to-infinitive is used when announcing bad news:  
We regret to inform you that the flight to Munich has been cancelled.

In other cases the [Gerund](http://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/grammar/gerund_verbs.htm) is used.

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| after: | question words | I don't know what to say. |
| Can you tell me how to get to the bus stop? |

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| after: | want/would like | I want you to help me. |

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| --- | --- |
| verb + object + to-infinitive | I helped my dad to clean the car. |

NOTE!!!

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| I want to help you. | I want you to help me. |

# The Infinitive without to

## after auxiliaries/modals

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| --- | --- |
| can | He can run very fast. |
| could | As a boy he could run very fast. |
| may | I may fly to Africa this summer. |
| might | I might fly to Africa this summer. |
| must | I must go now. |
| mustn't | You mustn't smoke here. |
| needn't | You needn't go. |
| shall | We shall sing a song. |
| should | We should sing a song. |
| will | She will cook a meal for his birthday. |
| would | She would cook a meal for his birthday. |

**after to do**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| do | I don't know. |

**after the following expressions:**

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| --- | --- |
| had better | You had better clean up your room. |
| would rather | Susan would rather study for her exam tomorrow. |
| would sooner | I would sooner read a book than watch this film. |
| why not | Why not ask your neighbour for help? |
| why should we | Why should we go by car? |
| why should we not | Why should we not go by car? |

**after verbs of perception + object (action has finished):**

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| --- | --- |
| feel | She feels the rain fall on her face. |
| hear | I heard Peter sing a song. |
| notice | Mandy noticed the boy climb the tree. |
| see | They saw him climb up the roof. |
| watch | He watched the thieves steal a car. |

**after let + object:**

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| --- | --- |
| let | Sandy let her child go out alone. |
| Mother let her daughter decide on her own. |
| let's | Let's go for a walk through the park. |

**after make + object:**

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| --- | --- |
| make | She made Peggy and Samantha clean the room. |