**Gerunds & Infinitives**

Student Name:

Instructor:

Date:

Course:

# About this DLA

## Important Note

All the activities (3) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before receiving credit for completion. Students are welcome to meet with a tutor if they need help, but please be aware that students might need a second appointment for review and signature in that case. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor’s signature included.

## Learning Outcomes

Through computer and other independent work, this activity will familiarize you with gerunds and infinitives and help you better understand their function in language.

## Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

# Understanding Gerunds & Infinitives

Sometimes a main verb is followed by an object. That object can be either a *gerund* or an *infinitive*.

A *gerund* is a **base verb + ing** that works like a noun.

* We finished **reading** the book.
* He risked **not getting** a raise. (negative)

An *infinitive* consists of **to + base form** of the verb.

* I want to take a Japanese class.
* They urged me not to say anything. (negative)

To make it easier to remember, remember these SEVEN rules for gerunds and infinitives!

## Rule#1: Verbs and Certain Expressions Followed by Gerunds ONLY

We use a gerund after some verbs and verb phrases.

* They *quit* **smoking**.
* I *finished* **painting** the house.

Here are some verbs that are followed by gerunds only:

**admit**

**appreciate**

**avoid**

**can’t help**

**complete**

**consider**

**delay**

**deny**

**discuss**

**enjoy**

**finish**

**give up**

**involve**

**keep (on)**

**(not) mind**

**postpone**

**practice**

**prevent**

**prohibit**

**put off**

**quit**

**recall**

**recommend**

**resist**

**risk**

**stand**

**suggest**

**tolerate**

We usually use *go* (in any tense) + a gerund to describe recreational activities.

* We *went* **sightseeing** today.
* Let’s *go* **surfing**!

**go biking**

**go bowling**

**go camping**

**go dancing**

**go fishing**

**go hiking**

**go hunting**

**go jogging**

**go kayaking**

**go running**

**go sailing**

**go scuba diving**

**go shopping**

**go sightseeing**

**go skating**

**go skiing**

**go surfing**

**go swimming**

We use a gerund after many common expressions:

| Expression | Example |
| --- | --- |
| be busy | I’ll *be busy* **writing** my paper tomorrow. |
| have difficulty/trouble | He *has difficulty* **pronouncing** my last name. |
| waste of time/money | It’s a *waste of time/money* **washing** the car because it’s going to rain tomorrow. |
| no use | It’s *no use* **worrying** about it. Nothing can be done |
| (not) worth | It’s *not worth* **waiting** in line for those tickets. |

## Rule#2: Gerunds as Subjects

A gerund can be the subject of a clause or a sentence.

* **Knitting** is my favorite hobby.
* **Swimming** and **dancing** are excellent forms of exercise.
* I think that **eating** well is the best thing for good health.

Gerunds can be singular or plural. A gerund is singular when there is only one as the subject of a sentence or clause. When there are two or more gerunds, they take a plural verb.

* **Singing** makes me happy.
* **Kayaking** and **running** are my favorite sports.

**Note:** Sometimes an infinitive can act as a subject, though it is more common for gerunds to be subjects.

## Rule#3: Gerunds as Objects of Prepositions

Prepositions are words like *about, against, at, by, for, in, of, on, to, with, without, etc*. We use a gerund after a *preposition*.

* What do you like *about* **studying** at Mt. SAC?
* I’m good *at* **learning** songs quickly.
* They look forward *to* **meeting** us tomorrow.
* She’s interested *in* **working** with us.

## Rule#4: Verbs Followed by Infinitives ONLY

We use infinitives after some verbs.

* I *want* **to take** English 68 next semester.

Here are some verbs that are followed by infinitives only:

**afford**

**agree**

**appear**

**decide**

**demand**

**expect**

**hope**

**learn**

**manage**

**need**

**offer**

**plan**

**pretend**

**promise**

**refuse**

**seem**

**threaten**

**want**

## Rule#5: Verbs Followed by Objects and Infinitives

After some verbs, we use an object , then an **infinitive**.

* They *encouraged* us **to stay**.
* The teacher *told* the students **to finish** the chapter at home.
* He *asked* Anne **to take** him to the airport.

Here are some verbs that follow the verb + object + **infinitive** pattern.

**advise**

**allow**

**ask**

**encourage**

**invite**

**order**

**permit**

**persuade**

**prefer**

**remind**

**require**

**teach**

**tell**

**warn**

Some verbs do not follow the previous pattern:

**Causative verbs** like *make/have/let*

* The officer *made* me **step** out of my car. (*make* + object + **base**)
* The teacher *will have* the students **read** for 20 minutes. (*have* + object + **base**)
* Her parents never *let* her **stay** out after 11:00 p.m. (*let* + object + **base**)

**Perception verbs** like *see, hear, watch*

* We *saw* them **leave** the party. (*see* + object + **base**)
* He *watched* her **walk away**. (*watch* + object + **base**)

## Rule#6: Infinitives after Certain Words

We use the **infinitive** after many *adjectives*.

* They were *happy* **to stay** with me.
* He is *ashamed* **to tell** you the truth.
* It is *important* **to read** a contract before you sign.

We use the **infinitive** after certain *nouns*.

* It’s *time* **to go** home.
* Her *decision* **to leave** the group was a hard one.

We use the **infinitive** after indefinite pronouns like *something* and *anything*.

* I need *something* **to read** on the plane.
* Would you like to have *anything* **to drink**?

We use the **infinitive** with *too* and *enough*.

* It’s *too* hot **to play** outside.
* You are not tall *enough* **to get** on this ride.
* We don’t have *enough* money **to buy** a house this year.

We use the infinitive to show purpose.

* I took this class (in order) **to improve** my writing skills.
* He called **to tell** me that he loves me.

## Rule#7: Verbs followed by Gerunds OR Infinitives

Some verbs can be followed by a **gerund** or an **infinitive**. With these verbs, there is **no difference** in meaning.

**begin**

**start**

**can’t stand**

**continue**

**like**

**love**

**prefer**

**hate**

* I love **to skate**. OR I love **skating**.

With these verbs, there is a **difference** in meaning.

**forget**

**remember**

**regret**

**stop**

| Verb | Verb + gerund | Verb + infinitive |
| --- | --- | --- |
| forget | to say that we forgot something *after* we have already done it  I forgot **buying** peanut butter.  (First you bought peanut butter, and then you forgot about it.) | to say that we didn’t do something because we forgot  I forgot **to buy** peanut butter.  (You didn’t buy any peanut butter because you forgot.) |
| remember | to say that we remember something *after* we have already done it  I remember **mailing** the check.  (First you mailed the check, and then you remembered it.) | to say that we remember something *before* we do it  I remembered **to mail** the check.  (First you remembered, and then you mailed the check.) |
| regret | to say that we regret something *after* we have already done it  I regret **taking** this class.  (First I took the class. Now I regret it.) | to say that we regret something we have to do *now*  I regret **to tell** you that you failed the class.  (First I regret it, and now I have to tell you.) |
| stop | to quit or finish something  I stopped **smoking**.  (I no longer smoke.) | to say why we stop  I was driving, but I stopped **to smoke**.  (I stopped driving in order to smoke.) |

# Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

## 1. Gerunds and Infinitives Review

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following questions.

| Write the answers. |
| --- |
| What is a gerund? |
|  |
|  |
| What is an infinitive? |
|  |
|  |

## 2. Online Quiz

Go to http://tinyurl.com/GerundsandInfinitivesDLA and take the [Gerunds and Infinitives DLA Quiz](http://tinyurl.com/GerundsandInfinitivesDLA). You must score at least 80% on the exercises before seeing a tutor. After you complete the task, **PLEASE ASK A LAB TUTOR OR FRONT DESK ATTENDANT TO PRINT THE PAGE THAT HAS YOUR SCORE. DO NOT EXIT THE PROGRAM UNTIL THIS PAGE HAS BEEN PRINTED (FREE OF CHARGE)**. If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to ask a lab tutor.

## 3. Sentence Correction

Review the above information on gerunds and infinitives, and then read the following sentences. Write “C” if the sentence is correct or “X” if there is a gerund or an infinitive error. If there is an error, correct the sentence and write the rule number from this DLA that explains the correction.

| C or X | Sentence |
| --- | --- |
|  | 1. Karen decided looking for a new job. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. The doctor advised John drinking more water. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. Christina is very good at making crafts. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. Mina insisted on to pay the bill. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. Doug forgot turning off the pot on the stove, so the beans are burned. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. Lourdes was shocked finding her son still in bed at 1:00 PM. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. Professor Jacob recommended to read for twenty minutes each day. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. Amy hates being stuck in traffic. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. The new student was embarrassed to ask a question. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. The professor gave us the choice attending a workshop or complete a DLA. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. Do you have time to help me? |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. Joyce reminded Garrett to turn in his time sheet. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. Cynthia believes that to brush her hair three times a day makes it grow longer. |
|  | Answer |
|  | 1. Nicole enjoys going shopping for colorful clothes. |
|  | Answer |

## Choose 4a or 4b Below

## 4a. Correct Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work that identifies gerund and infinitive errors. Correct all marked errors and look for others to correct as well. Bring this revised work with you to the DLA tutoring session.

**If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (4b).**

## 4b Write Your Own Sentences

On a separate sheet of paper, create two sentences for each of the gerunds and infinitives rule.

## 5. Review the DLA

Go to https://mtsac2.mywconline.com and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](https://mtsac2.mywconline.com/) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the “**Walk-in**” list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, explain gerunds and infinitives. Refer to your own graded writing (or the completed activity) and explain to the tutor strategies that you used to identify gerunds and infinitives and how knowledge of these concepts can help improve your writing style. ?

Student’s Signature:

Tutor’s Signature

Date:

Date:

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center’s website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, [access@mtsac.edu](mailto:access@mtsac.edu), (909) 274-4290.

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