Basic Rules for Gerunds and Infinitives

**Gerunds**and**infinitives** can replace a ***noun*** in a sentence.

**Gerund =** the present participle (**-ing**) form of the verb: singing, dancing, running

**Infinitive =**to + the base form of the verb: to sing, to dance, to run

Whether you use a **gerund** or an **infinitive** depends on the **main verb** in the sentence.

I plan ***to have*** the results of the test soon. (Infinitive)

I plan on ***having***the tests corrected soon. (Gerund)

***Gerunds***can be used after certain verbs such as: **enjoy, like, discuss, dislike, finish, mind, suggest, recommend, keep,** and **avoid.**

1) After***prepositions***of place and time.

I made dinner ***before*** *getting*home.

He looked unhappy ***after*** *seeing*his work schedule.

2) To replace the***subject or object***of a sentence

Lachlan likes***eating***coconut oil.

***Jumping***off a cliff is dangerous, but a real thrill.

**Infinitives**can be used after certain verbs such as: **agree, ask, decide, help, plan, hope, learn, want, would like,** and **promise.**

1) After many ***adjectives***:

It is **hard** *to* *make* dinner this late.

I find it **difficult** *to describe* my feelings about girlfriend.

2) To show ***purpose (reason)***:

I went on the trip ***to study*** Russian.

I came to the office ***to do***some work.

There are also many verbs that can take both a gerund and an infinitive.

You just need **to practice** using them to get more comfortable with them.

Most students enjoy practicing and using gerunds and infinitives.