

9. The man tried to help the people who were lost.

10. The women continue to volunteer for the library.

11. Most cats can't stand to bathe in water.

12. We love visiting our aunt and uncle.

13. They deserved winning the writing prize.

14. It begins getting colder this time of year.

EXERCISE 2

Fill in each blank with either the infinitive or gerund form of the verbs in parentheses.

Example: I wish you would remember (infinitive—take) to take off your shoes before you come into the house.

1. Try (gerund—learn) _____ at least 10 new vocabulary words every day.
2. People who have trouble getting to sleep should try (gerund—read) _____ in bed.
3. We tried (infinitive—push) _____ the car out of the road, but it was just too heavy.
4. The plants will die if you don't start (infinitive—water) _____ them.
5. Did you attempt (gerund—close) _____ the windows before you left the house?
6. I love (infinitive—walk) _____ in the woods in fall.

EXAMPLE

Gerund:
I started looking for a job a month ago.

Infinitive:
I started to look for a job a month ago.

Gerund:
He continued working until he was 65.

Infinitive:
He continued to work until he was 65.

EXPLANATION

Some verbs including those listed below can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive:

attempt	deserve	prefer
begin	hate	start
can't stand	like	try
continue	love	

LANGUAGE NOTE:

Try followed by a gerund is a little different from *try* followed by an infinitive:

Infinitive: I'll try to improve my résumé. [*try* = make an effort.]

Gerund: If you can't find a job by looking at the want ads, you should try networking. [*try* = use a different technique]

EXERCISE

Change the infinitive to a gerund or the gerund to an infinitive in each of the following statements. Pay attention to verb tenses.

Example: I started working at the fast-food restaurant last week.

I started to work at the fast-food restaurant last week.

- He attempted to find a new job in the newspaper.

- All children deserve someone looking after them.

- I prefer swimming in lakes to the ocean.

- She began to work at a store when she was 16 years old.

- We hate worrying about our children's safety.

- The parents started to form a group to talk to the teachers.

- You can't stand eating red meat.

- I liked talking to my friends after high school every day.

Using Gerunds to Begin Sentences

A. Shank

Use the verbs listed below to complete the following sentences. You should use the gerund form of each verb you choose.

1. _____ is an important office skill to have.
2. _____ a foreign language can be hard work.
3. _____ nutritious food is important for your health.
4. _____ is not fun.
5. _____ a bus can be a noisy experience.
6. _____ heavy snow can make you very tired.
7. _____ by car on icy roads can be frightening.
8. _____ with friends can be very fun.
9. _____ on time for an interview is very important.
10. _____ a big dinner takes a lot of time.

Eat
Be

Prepare
Learn

Travel
Shovel

Visit
Ride

Clean
Type

Using Infinitives and Gerunds

By _____

1. My friend wants _____
2. I can't stand _____
3. Our neighbors really enjoy _____
4. I'm very interested in _____
5. My friends prefer _____
6. I miss _____
7. My family loves _____
8. You can get to school by _____
9. When I'm driving I try to avoid _____
10. _____ is a very fun activity.