

FCE MINI LESSON

LET'S LEARN ABOUT:
GERUNDS AND
INFINITIVES



GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES

INFINITIVE

We use the infinitive:

- to say why we do something:
*She put a tick **to accept** the terms and conditions.*
*He's taken up long-distance running **to improve** his health.*
- to say why something exists:
*They've erected the metal barrier on that sharp bend **to reduce** accidents.*
- after *too* and *enough*:
*It was too late **to express** my opinion because the professor had already moved on to another topic.*
*The image wasn't clear enough **to illustrate** clearly what it was supposed to depict.*

We use the infinitive in the following verb patterns:

verb + to infinitive	agree, appear, bother, decide, demand, fail, hope, learn, manage, offer, plan, refuse, seem, be, supposed, threaten	<i>They agreed to vote on the new reform.</i>
verb + (somebody/something) + to infinitive	ask, choose, expect, help, intend, promise, want	<i>He expected to do well in the test.</i> <i>I expect you to do well in the test.</i>
verb + somebody/something + to infinitive	advise, allow, enable, encourage, forbid, force, invite, order, permit, persuade, recommend, remind, teach, tell, warn	<i>My parents forbade me to boast about my academic achievements.</i>

VERB + -ING

We use a verb + -ing, e.g. *I can't stop **yawning**.*

- after prepositions:
*He's improved his English **by reading** extensively.*
Note: We also use a verb + -ing after *to* when *to* is a preposition:
*I'm looking forward to **receiving** a detailed reply to my letter of complaint.*
- as subjects or objects of a sentence:
Correcting mistakes is a crucial part of the learning process.
*When he was fully recovered after the operation, he decided to take up **wrestling**.*
- after the verbs *admit, appreciate, avoid, celebrate, consider, delay, deny, dislike, enjoy, finish, imagine, involve, keep, mind, miss, postpone, practise, regret, risk, stop, suggest*:
*I considered **swapping** this task for another one.*
*She celebrated **passing** all her exams by going on a trip to Thailand.*
*I now regret **borrowing** money from my grandparents.*
- after the expressions *it's no good, it's not worth, it's no use, it's a waste of time, can't stand, can't bear, can't help*:
*It's a waste of time **trying** to increase the bee population.*
*It's not worth **buying** expensive ski gear – you can hire it.*
*I can't bear **seeing** my best friend making such a fool of herself.*

ACTIVITIES!

FILL IN THE GAPS WITH GERUNDS OR INFINITIVES:

1. I ENJOY _____ (READ) NOVELS IN MY FREE TIME.
2. THEY DECIDED _____ (TRAVEL) TO EUROPE FOR
THEIR SUMMER VACATION.
3. SHE SUGGESTED _____ (WATCH) A MOVIE TONIGHT.
4. WE NEED _____ (BUY) GROCERIES BEFORE HEADING
HOME.
5. HE USED TO _____ (PLAY) THE PIANO WHEN HE WAS
YOUNGER.
6. MY GOAL IS _____ (LEARN) A NEW LANGUAGE THIS
YEAR.
7. CAN YOU IMAGINE _____ (SKYDIVE) FROM AN
AIRPLANE?
8. THEY PLAN _____ (START) A BUSINESS TOGETHER.
9. THE TEACHER ENCOURAGED _____ (ASK) QUESTIONS
DURING THE LECTURE.
10. I'D LIKE _____ (VISIT) THE MUSEUM NEXT
WEEKEND.

ANSWERS

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2. THEY DECIDED TO TRAVEL TO EUROPE FOR THEIR
SUMMER VACATION.
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