

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Week - 10
Lecture – 50
Grammar – Part 6
Gerunds and Infinitives

Welcome friends to the last lecture of Week 10 and Grammar. We will be doing gerunds and infinitives. So, gerunds are those words where ing word is used as a noun; that means infinitive plus ing.

Gerund can be a subject for example, let say reading decanes is a very useful activity, going to that movies can be quite fun, shopping is something that does not excite me much. So, these are ing forms used as subjects. It can also be used in the place of an object for example. I love playing the guitar, I love a playing the piano, I love singing, she loves singing. So, a gerund is an ing word that is used as a noun; that is the basic spelling.

In these sentences it is easy to confuse gerunds with verbs ing, but the verbs are to be and to love here, not to go and to sing or to dance or to play. Remember progressive tense is formed with to be an ing. I am eating, continuous progressive. Gerunds are formed, however, only with the verb and ing: she likes eating. So, how are gerunds used, gerunds are sometimes use after propositions. What was the reaction on hearing the news; so on hearing the news. The pill must be taken after taking your breakfast, so after; so gerunds are often used on in the preposition of after the preposition.

So, after adjective and preposition we can also use gerunds after adjectives and prepositions. For example: she is afraid of doing badly at her exams. Gerunds found of making character sketches. So, adjective and preposition: afraid, fond, and off and then doing and making they are your gerunds. We can also use gerunds after noun preposition. For example, she can choose between flying to Chennai to Pune. So, she can choose between flying to Chennai to Pune, she is in danger of making a mistake. So, after noun an preposition you have here gerund.

Noun, she ok choose between is your prepositional phrase and noun phrase and then you have flying in itself. So, she can is the is the verb here flying is the gerund. She is in danger of making a mistake is the main verb and making, a mistake and all that is the gerund; making is the gerund here.

We often use gerund after verbs and preposition also that is another form. They apologize for being late, she does not believe in being on time. He complains about bullying, so bullying being etcetera they are your gerunds. Infinitives on the other hand that the most basic forms of the verb. Infinitives most often appear with a two preceding them. She was the first female CEO to lead the company, I am happy to be here, I am hoping to learn more about this. Again the infinitive is in the verb, it can function as the subject and object just like the gerund. Infinitives can also be used without to, when they follow auxiliaries. Auxiliary words are a verbs are helping verbs can-could, will-would is etcetera.

I may read (Refer Time: 04:40) after this, I may read Kiran Desai after this. I can try calling him, she might crack the exam. So, what are we doing? These are our auxiliaries Now, the idea is infinitives can also be used without to, when they follow auxiliaries. So, when I say I may read (Refer Time: 05:04) and Kiran Desai side here may is an auxiliary. And I am not saying I may to read I may read it is an infinitive form. I can try calling her or calling him can is the main verb auxiliary, try is an infinitive without to. She might crack the exam, so might is the auxiliary and crack is the infinitive with to is 0 here, here.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:39)

Fill in the blank with the right preposition

1. I don't agree __ what you are saying.
2. She doesn't feel __ working on the computer.
3. Aniket apologized __ being late.
4. Joya dreams __ living on a small island.
5. We are looking forward __ going out at the weekend.
6. The girls insisted __ going out with Jay.
7. They are afraid __ losing the match.
8. She complains __ bullying.
9. My friend is good __ playing basketball.
10. Edna thinks __ climbing trees this afternoon.

Now, look at this slide it is an exercise for you. Fill in the blank with the right preposition, and you have various gerund forms here. I do not agree- what you are saying. She does not feel working on the computer. Aniket apologized being late. Joya dreams living on a on a small island, we are looking forward going out at the weekend. The girls insisted going out with Jay. They are afraid losing the match. She complains dash bullying. My friend is good playing basketball. Edna thinks climbing trees this afternoon.

And the answers are: I do not agree with what you are saying. She does not like working on the computer. And do apologize for being late. Lora dreams of living on a small island. We are looking forward to going out at the weekend. Number 6 is the girls insisted on going out with Jay or anyone. They are afraid of losing the match, of losing the match. She complains about bullying. My friend is good at playing volleyball. Edna thinks of climbing tress this afternoon.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:04)

Fill in the blanks with both preposition and the gerund form

1. I'm afraid ___ my smartphone. *(to lose)*
2. She's looking forward ___ her brother. *(to see)*
3. He is responsible ___ the money. *(to collect)*
4. She is used ___ to bed late. *(to get)*
5. He apologized ___ late. *(to be)*
6. Larry never worries ___ friends. *(to make)*
7. We are tired ___ for the bus. *(to wait)*
8. She insisted ___ to her lawyer. *(to talk)*
9. You should give ___ your sister. *(to bully)*
10. They are thinking ___ to Italy. *(to move)*

Now here is another exercise for you please look at it. Fill in the blanks with both preposition and the gerund form. I am afraid dash my smart phone: this is to lose. She is looking forward dash her brother: to see. He is responsible dash the money: to collect. She is used dash to bed late: to get. He apologized late: to be. Larry never worries dash friends. We are tired dash for the bus. She insisted dash to her lawyer. You should give dash your sister. They are thinking dash to Italy.

And the answers are: first one I am afraid of losing my, so we do not say to lose my smart phone. She is looking forward to seeing her brother. He is responsible for collecting the money. She is used to going to bed late or early. He apologized for being late. And number 6 is Larry never worries about making friends. We are tired of waiting for the bus. Number 8 she insisted on talking to her lawyer. You should give up bullying your sister. And the last one is, they are thinking about moving to Italy.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:34)

Exercise: Use the preposition such that the word following is a gerund.

For example:

Be good **at** driving (be good+preposition+gerund)

1. Be bad __gerund
2. Danger __gerund
3. Be crazy __gerund
4. Difficulty __gerund
5. Be ashamed __gerund
6. Idea __gerund
7. Way __gerund
8. Be fond __gerund
9. Succeed __gerund
10. Accused __gerund

Let us look at the next slide; this is another exercise for you. Use the prepositions in such a way that the word following is a gerund. For example, be good at driving; be good preposition gerund. So, be bad danger, be crazy, difficulty, be ashamed, idea, way, be fond, succeed, accused.

Let us say at the answers: be bad at, danger of, be crazy about all these are gerunds, difficulty in, be ashamed of, number 6 idea of, way of number 7, 8 is be fond of, 9 succeed in, 10 accused of; these are all examples of gerunds.

(Refer Slide Time: 09:29)

Exercise: Infinitive or Gerund? Choose the right answer.

- 1) When you come to the crossroads - stop there.
 - a) Remember to stop at the crossroads.
 - b) Remember stopping at the crossroads.
 - c) Both possibilities are correct.

- 2) Yesterday she read the first pages of her new book.
 - a) She began to read her new book.
 - b) She began reading her new book.
 - c) Both possibilities are correct.

Now look at this exercise again. Choose the right answer in whether the statement should have infinitive or gerund. When you come to the crossroads - stop there. How should you put it, when you come to the crossroads remember to stop at the crossroads, remember is stopping at the crossroads or both are correct. Number two yesterday she read the first pages of her new book. How should it be? She began to read her new book, she began reading her new book, or both possibilities are correct.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:03)

3) I was talking to Macy. But when my friend came in, I could not talk to Macy anymore.

a) I stopped to talk to her.

b) I stopped talking to her.

c) Both possibilities are correct.

4) We might go to France next year.

a) We intend to spend our holiday in France.

b) We intend spending our holiday in France.

c) Both possibilities are correct.

Look at the next slide: I was talking to Macy. But when my friend came in, I could not talk to many anymore. So, how should you say, but when my friend came in I stop talk to talk to her, I stop talking to her, a both are correct.

Number 4, we might go to France next year. We intend to spend our holiday in France, we intend spending our holiday in France, and both possibilities are correct.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:31)

5) I wanted to write a letter, but I didn't know what to write. (So in the end, I didn't write one.)

a) I tried to write a letter.

b) I tried writing a letter.

c) Both possibilities are correct.

6) I am sorry now for something I said earlier on.

a) I regret to say this.

b) I regret saying this.

c) Both possibilities are correct.

And next one number 5, I wanted to write a letter, but I dint know what to write. So, I tried to write a letter, I tried writing a letter, but I dint know what to write, I tried to write a letter I dint know what to write, both possibilities are correct. What would you say, how would you say. Number 6: I am sorry now for something I said earlier on. I regret to say this, I regret saying this, both possibilities are correct. Take a moment before we discuss the answers.

And the answers are for the first one; a choice a when you come to the crossroads remember to stop there. For second choice c; choice c is the correct one which means both possibilities are correct- yesterday she read the first pages of her new book she began to read her new book, yesterday she read the first pages of her new book she began reading her new book both are correct. And now number 3, b I stop talking to her. For number 4 choice c, both possibilities are correct. And for number 5 choice a, I tried to write a letter but I do not know what to write. And for the last one choice b, I regret saying this and then go on.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:17)

Choose the correct form

1. My friends encouraged me __ for this job. (*apply/to apply/applying*)
2. I didn't mean __ your feelings. (*hurt/to hurt/hurting*)
3. I must apologize for __ late. (*be/to be/being*)
4. The job involves __ reports for the management. (*prepare/to prepare/preparing*)
5. He refused __ his friends. (*betray/to betray/betraying*)
6. Don't you dare __ to me like that! (*talk/talking*)
7. Do you happen __ any money with you? (*have/to have/having*)
8. Do you enjoy __ ? (*sing/to sing/singing*)
9. If you have any questions, don't hesitate __ me. (*call/to call/calling*)
10. I am looking forward to __ you again soon. (*see/seeing*)

Now, look at this exercise: choose the correct form. My friends encouraged me dash for this job: apply, to apply, applying. I did not mean dash your feelings: hurt, to hurt, hurting. Next I must apologize for; be, to be, being. Late the job involves: prepare, to prepare, preparing, reports for the management. He refused his friends: betray, to betray, betraying. Do not you dare: talk, talking, to me like that. Do you happen: have, to have, having, any money with you. Do you enjoy; sing, to sing, singing. If you have any questions do not hesitate: call, to call, calling. I am looking forward to: see, seeing.

And the answers are: my friends encouraged me to apply for this job. Second one, I did not mean to hurt your feelings. Number 3, I must apologize for being late not to be late. Number 4, the job involves preparing not to prepare reports for the management. Many a time we do make mistakes of this kind; this may look easy to some of you. However, do revise your gerunds and infinitives because in the sentence correction form when a portion or section of the sentence is underlined many at time you come across this kind of problems also.

In the last class we were discussing modifiers and dangling and misplace adverbial modifiers, you often get mistakes like that. You may not take them seriously; you may think you know it all but these may cause to your marks. So, gerund and infinitives need some revision. Number 5, he refuse to betray his friends; to betray. Number 6, do not to dare talk to me like that. Number 7, is do you happen to have any money with you.

Number 8, is do you enjoy singing or not to sing; singing. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me. Number 10, I am looking forward to seeing you again soon.

So, that is gerunds and infinitives for you. Please revise them as much as possible. And next week onwards we will do more grammatical or grammar based exercises.

Thank you very much.