



Thank you for downloading our two free free sample lessons.

There are two complete modules in this document:

Module 01. The Simple Present Tense. One of our easiest lessons.

Module 30. Gerunds & Infinitives. One of our hardest lessons.

Here's a list of all our English grammar modules.

(For your convenience, the same modules are used in our books, videos, tests and one-to-one teaching.)

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Lastly, please click on the book or scan the QR code to see our Intermediate grammar book on Amazon.

We hope you enjoy our free sample lessons.

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01 - Simple Present Tense

In this lesson, we will cover many of the rules and common uses of the simple present tense.

The simple present may seem like a basic lesson, but it is good to review these lessons. Many advanced students sometimes make mistakes with this tense.

Even if you have learned these rules before, it is a good idea to practice the example sentences in this lesson.

You will also see examples of the simple present tense in the story at the end of the lesson.

Let's get started!

Sentence construction

The simple present is constructed like this:

[VERB] + s/es for he/she/it

[VERB] for I/you/we/they

For example:

*You **speak** English.*

*Jane **plays** the piano.*

*They **like** baseball.*

*We **eat** at noon.*

*The cat **drinks** milk.*

The spelling for the verb in the third person (he/she/it) changes depending on the ending of that verb, and this is an area that causes confusion with some students.

For verbs that end in -O, -CH, -SH, -SS, -X, or -Z, we add -ES in the third person.

For example:

*I go. She **goes**. They go.*

I go – he goes

You catch – she catches

They wash – he washes

You kiss – she kisses
We fix – he fixes
I buzz – she buzzes

For verbs that end in a consonant + Y, we remove the Y and add -IES.

marry – marries
study – studies
carry – carries
worry – worries

For verbs that end in a vowel + Y, we just add -S.

play – plays
enjoy – enjoys
say – says

Negative sentences

To make a negative sentence we normally use **Don't** or **Doesn't** with all verbs except “To Be” and modal verbs (can, might, should etc.).

You will see that we add **don't** between the subject and the verb. We use **don't** when the subject is I, you, we or they.

For example:

Affirmative: *You speak French.*

Negative: *You don't speak French.*

When the subject is he, she or it, we add **doesn't** between the subject and the verb to make a negative sentence. Notice that the letter 's' at the end of the verb in the affirmative sentence (because it is in the third person) disappears in the negative sentence.

Affirmative: *He speaks German.*

Negative: *He doesn't speak German.*

The following is the word order to construct a basic negative sentence in English in the present tense using **Don't** or **Doesn't**.

[Subject + don't/doesn't + Verb*]

*The verb that goes here is the base form (that is, with no 's').

Look at the following examples of negative sentences with **Don't** and **Doesn't**:

You don't speak Arabic.

John doesn't speak Italian.

We don't have time.

It doesn't take long.

They don't want to go to the party.

She doesn't like fish.

Asking questions in the simple present tense

To make a question in English we often use **Do** or **Does**. This is normally put at the beginning of the question.

You will see that we add **Do** at the beginning of the affirmative sentence to make it a question. We use **Do** when the subject is I, you, we or they.

Affirmative: *You speak English.*

Question: **Do** you speak English?

When the subject is he, she or it, we add **Does** at the beginning to make the affirmative sentence a question. Notice that the letter 's' at the end of the verb in the affirmative sentence disappears in the question.

Affirmative: *He speaks French.*

Question: **Does** he speak French?

We DON'T use **Do** or **Does** in questions that have the verb **To Be** or Modal Verbs (can, must, might, should etc.)

The following is the word order to construct a basic question in English using **Do** or **Does**.

[Do/Does + Subject + Verb*]

*The verb that goes here is the base form of the infinitive.

Here are some examples of questions with **Do** and **Does**:

Do you need a dictionary?

Does Mary need a chair?

Do we have enough people?

Does it rain a lot in April?

Do they want to go to the party?

Does he like pizza?

We often use the simple present to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do.

I play tennis on Saturdays.

He plays golf often in the summer.

I brush my teeth in the morning and evening.

He can play the piano.

The train leaves every morning at 8 AM.

The train does not leave at 9 AM.

She always forgets her purse.

He never arrives late.

More simple present tense exercises

The simple present tense can also indicate the speaker believes that a fact was true before, is true now, and will be true in the future. It is not important if the speaker is correct about the fact. It is also used to make generalizations about people or things.

Cats like milk.

Birds do not like milk.

Do dogs like bones?

New York is in America.

New York is not in China.

Windows are made of glass.

Windows are not made of wood.

New York is a small city. (It is not important that this fact isn't true.)

It happens in the future

You will also see the simple present tense frequently used when speakers talk about scheduled events in the near future. This can be confusing because these events will actually take place in the future. This is most commonly done when talking about public transportation, but it can be used with any scheduled event. Notice how this works in the examples below.

The train leaves tonight at 6:00.

The bus does not arrive at 11 AM, it arrives at 11 PM.

When do we board the plane?

The party starts at 8 o'clock.

When does the football game start?

It's happening now

Lastly, speakers sometimes use the simple present tense to express the idea that an action is happening or is not happening now. This can only be done with non-continuous verbs and certain mixed verbs.

I am here now.

She is not here now.

He needs help right now.

He does not need help now.

He has his ticket in his hand.

Do you have your ticket with you?

It's story time

Now that we've learned a lot about the simple present tense, let's see how this is used in a short story. As you read the following story, pay attention to how the simple present tense is used.

Justin **is** twelve years old, and he **is** very busy. School **starts** at 8:00, but he **arrives** at 7:15 because he **doesn't want** to arrive late. Sometimes, he **uses** that time in the morning to review his assignments, but often he **likes to** talk with his friends.

He **has** a full day of classes from 8:00 until 3:30. Then, at 3:30, **does** he **go** home? No, he **doesn't go** home. At 3:30 he **goes** to study English at an English academy. After the English academy, he **meets** his best friend Ethan, and they **walk** to math academy together. Justin **doesn't do** well in math, but Ethan usually **gets** high scores.

After the math academy, Justin **says** goodbye to Ethan, and he finally **goes** home. It **is** 7:30 when he finally **walks** in the door, and he **kisses** his mother. They **eat** dinner together as a family, and Justin **tells** his parents about his day.

In the evening, Justin's mother and father **relax**. His father **watches** television, and his mother **plays** on the Internet. Justin **doesn't like** it, but he **has** to study at that point. He **studies** the rest of the night until **it's** time for bed.

He **doesn't understand** why he must work so hard. His parents **tell** him that he **has** to get high grades if he **wants** to study abroad someday. He **knows** that they **want** the best for him, but sometimes he **doesn't think** it **is** so important to study in America.

That's the end of the story.

Reminder. We're developing an online test for the Simple Present Tense.

Please subscribe to our mailing list at www.english-masterclass.co.uk for updates.

30 - Gerunds & Infinitives

Welcome to the Gerunds and Infinitives English lesson.

There are many rules and different situations that call for either the gerund or the infinitive. This is one of the most complex lessons we created.

While it is important to learn and remember many of these rules, it is also important to listen for these and practice the example sentences.

This lesson includes a number of word lists. If you just read the lists, you will not remember the words. You can try to rewrite the lists yourself. When you write something yourself, it becomes easier to remember. Similarly, you can try to practice writing sentences for some of the words. The more you use these words, the fewer mistakes you will make.

Let's begin!

What is a gerund?

First let's answer the question, what is a gerund? A gerund is a noun made from a verb by adding "-ing." The gerund form of the verb "study" is "studying." You can use a gerund as the subject, the complement, or the object of a sentence.

You can see how this works in the following examples.

<i>Studying</i> helps you learn English.	SUBJECT OF SENTENCE
His favorite activity is <i>studying</i> .	COMPLEMENT OF SENTENCE
I enjoy <i>studying</i> .	OBJECT OF SENTENCE

Gerunds can be made negative by adding the word "not."

Not studying for the test was a big mistake.

Notice that this is different from the continuous tense of the verb.

I'm ***studying*** a book about ***fishing***.

As you can see, studying is the continuous verb in this sentence, and fishing is used as a noun here.

Infinitives with gerunds

Now, let's look at infinitives. Infinitives are the "to" form of the verb. The infinitive form of "study" is "to study." Just like the gerund, you can also use an infinitive as the subject, the complement, or the object of a sentence.

<i>To study is important.</i>	SUBJECT OF SENTENCE
<i>The important thing is to study.</i>	COMPLEMENT OF SENTENCE
<i>He likes to study.</i>	OBJECT OF SENTENCE

Again, just like gerunds, infinitives can be made negative by adding "not".

*I decided **not to study**.*

As the object of a sentence, it is sometimes difficult to choose between a gerund or an infinitive. In these situations, gerunds and infinitives are not normally interchangeable. Usually, the main verb in the sentence determines whether you use a gerund or an infinitive.

You can use the following lists as a guide to whether you should use the infinitive or gerund. If you are good at memorizing things, you can try to memorize these lists to prepare for a test. However, you should also listen to and recite the example sentences. In English conversations, you will not have time to try and remember the list. One of the important steps in becoming fluent in English is to be able to speak without thinking about the grammar rules. It takes time, but if you keep practicing, you will get there!

For extra practice, you can try to write your own example sentences, or writing down the following lists. It is difficult, but if you take the time to write sentences, it will help you to remember these words.

Verbs Followed by an Infinitive

Here's some examples before you read the list:

*He **neglected to clean** the back of the saucepan.*

*I **meant to tell** you that I can't come to work today.*

*I **wanted to wake up** early today.*

*He **likes to exercise** in the mornings.*

*My mom **promised to pick** me up from school today.*

*I hope she **remembered to pay** the electric bill.*

Here's the list ...

agree	fail	prepare
aim	forget	proceed
appear	get	promise
arrange	happen	propose
ask	have	refuse
attempt	hesitate	remember
be able	hope	say
beg	hurry	shoot
begin	intend	start
care	leap	stop
choose	leave	strive
condescend	like	swear
consent	long	threaten
continue	love	try
dare	mean	use
decide	neglect	wait
deserve	offer	want
detest	ought	wish
dislike	plan	
expect	prefer	

Verbs Followed by an Object and an Infinitive

You will notice that some of the verbs in the list below are included in the list above, and some can be used without an object.

*The teacher **advised the students to practice** the example sentences.*

*My mom **bought a cake to celebrate** my birthday.*

*I **allowed them to stay** up late.*

*Mary **invited everyone to come** to her party.*

*He **wants me to drive** him to basketball practice.*

*Sabrina **reminded him to bring** an umbrella.*

Here's the list ...

advise	forbid	permit
allow	force	persuade
ask	have	prepare
beg	hire	promise
bring	instruct	remind
build	invite	require
buy	lead	send
challenge	leave	teach
choose	let	tell
command	like	urge
dare	love	want
direct	Motivate	warn
encourage	order	
expect	pay	

Verbs Followed by a Gerund

Here is a rule you CAN memorize. Always use a gerund after a preposition. See the example sentences and list below.

*I don't **mind helping** you with your English homework.*

*I can't **help thinking** that this will be fun.*

*My father **quit smoking** cigarettes.*

*I can't **resist eating** ice cream.*

*Can you **imagine living** 1000 years ago?*

Here's the list ...

admit	escape	quit
advise	excuse	recall
appreciate	finish	report
avoid	forbid	resent
can't help	get through	resist
complete	have	resume
consider	imagine	risk
delay	mind	spend (time)
deny	miss	suggest
detest	permit	tolerate
dislike	postpone	waste (time)
enjoy	practice	

Verbs Followed by a Preposition and a Gerund

*The suspect didn't **admit to committing** the crimes.*

*He didn't **plan on becoming** a businessman.*

*I **objected to buying** a new car, but my wife didn't listen.*

*He was **worried about failing** the test.*

*She didn't **feel like studying** yesterday.*

Here's the list ...

admit to	depend on	plan on
approve of	disapprove of	prevent (someone)
argue about	discourage from	refrain from
believe in	dream about	succeed in
care about	feel like	talk about
complain about	forget about	think about
concentrate on	insist on	worry about
confess to	object to	

More Gerund & Infinitives exercises

Next, there are many "go + gerund" expressions used for adventure sports and individual recreational activities. In contrast, with team sports, we say play basketball or play football. Look at the following sentences referencing individual sports.

*I like to **go fishing**.*

*Have you ever **gone skydiving**?*

*I want to **go skiing** this weekend.*

*She **goes ice skating** every weekend.*

*Phil loves to **go bowling**.*

*Debbie **went swimming** yesterday.*

Moving on, some verbs can be followed by a gerund or an infinitive, but in some cases, the meaning changes. Here are some common examples:

begin

When "begin" is used in non-continuous tenses, you can either use a gerund or an infinitive.

Lisa began speaking.

Lisa began to speak.

When "begin" is used in continuous tenses, an infinitive is used.

Lisa is beginning to speak.

dread

Usually "dread" is followed by a gerund.

She dreads studying math.

"Dread" is sometimes used with infinitives such as "think" or "consider." In the sentence below, "dreaded to think" means "did not want to think."

We dreaded to think of what might have happened if he hadn't worn his seatbelt.

forget

When "forget" is used with a gerund, it means "to forget that you have done something." The sentence below means that she visited the museum when she was a kid, and that she has forgotten that fact.

She forgot visiting the museum when she was a kid.

When forget is used with an infinitive, it means "to forget that you need to do something." The sentence below means that she forgot that she needed to pay the electric bill.

She forgot to pay the electric bill.

keep

"Keep" is normally used with a gerund to mean that you continue doing an action.

She kept talking.

"Keep" can also be used with an object followed by an infinitive, but then the infinitive means of "in order to..."

*Jill **kept** the food in the kitchen **to prevent** the spread of ants.*

need

When "need" is used with a gerund, it takes on a passive meaning. The sentence below means "the house needs to be cleaned."

The house needs cleaning.

"Need" is usually used with an infinitive or an object + an infinitive.

He needs to call his mom.

I need him to call his mom.

regret

"Regret" is normally used with a gerund.

I regretted being late to school.

"Regret" is sometimes used with infinitives such as "to inform." In the sentence below, "We regret to inform you" means "We wish we did not have to tell you (bad news)."

We regret to inform you that your position at the company is being eliminated.

remember

When "remember" is used with a gerund, it means "to remember that you have done something." The sentence below means that I mentioned the meeting, and that I remember the fact that I did that.

I remember telling you about this yesterday.

When "remember" is used with an infinitive, it means "to remember that you need to do something." The sentence below means that he remembered that he needed to turn the lights off.

He remembered to turn off the lights before he left.

start

When "start" is used in non-continuous tenses, you can either use a gerund or an infinitive.

Marge started talking really fast.

Marge started to talk really fast.

When "start" is used in continuous tenses, an infinitive is used.

Marge is starting to talk really fast.

Sometimes, an infinitive means that you did not complete or continue an action.

I started to learn Russian, but it was so much work that I finally quit the class.

stop

"Stop" is normally used with a gerund.

He stopped smoking for health reasons.

When "stop" is used with an infinitive, the infinitive takes on the meaning of "in order to." In the sentence below, he stopped in order to rest for a few minutes.

He stopped to rest for a few minutes.

try

"Try + gerund" means to try or to experiment with different methods to see if something works.

She tried writing sample sentences to learn the words.

She tried practicing speaking with her friends to improve her English.

She tried watching American movies.

"Try + gerund" is often used when you experiment with something, but you do not really like it or want to do it again.

She tried eating the turtle soup, but she didn't like it.

When you "try to do" something, you want to do it, but you do not succeed in actually doing it. In the sentence below, an infinitive is used because she cannot successfully climb the tree.

She tried to climb the tree, but she couldn't even get off the ground.

An infinitive is also used if you are asking someone to try something they may or may not be able to accomplish.

Try not to wake the baby when you get up tomorrow at 5 AM.

Be a master at Gerunds & Infinitives!

Some verbs can be followed by a gerund or an infinitive with little difference in meaning.

can't bear

He can't bear being alone. He can't bear to be alone.

can't stand

Nancy can't stand working the late shift. Nancy can't stand to work the late shift.

cease

The government ceased providing free health care. The government ceased to provide free health care.

continue

She continued talking. She continued to talk.

hate

He hates studying science. He hates to study science.

like

Samantha likes reading. Samantha likes to read.

love

We love playing golf. We love to play golf.

neglect

He neglected practicing the piano. He neglected to practice the piano.

prefer

He prefers taking showers at night. He prefers to take showers at night.

propose

Tom proposed paying for the trip. Tom proposed to pay for the trip.

There are many "be + adjective" combinations that are commonly followed by infinitives.

be amazed

He was amazed to discover the truth.

be anxious

She was anxious to start her new job.

be ashamed

He was ashamed to admit he had lied.

be bound

She is bound to be elected class president.

be careful

He is careful to complete his homework on time.

be certain

She is certain to get the job.

be content

The student was content to receive second place in the competition.

be delighted

We were delighted to be invited to the party.

be determined

He was determined to finish the marathon.

be eager

He was eager to get started.

be eligible

They were not eligible to participate in the program.

be fortunate

She was fortunate to receive the research grant.

be glad

I will be glad to help out.

be happy

She was happy to see them at the party.

be hesitant

Mary was hesitant to say anything.

be liable

The mountain climber is liable to hurt himself if he doesn't prepare well.

be likely

They are likely to show up late.

be lucky

You were lucky to have such an opportunity.

be pleased

I am pleased to meet you.

be proud

He was proud to have been chosen as a finalist for the award.

be ready

I'm ready to go now.

be reluctant

The witness was reluctant to tell about what he had seen.

be sad

She was really sad to leave.

be shocked

He was shocked to discover the truth.

be sorry

I am sorry to tell you that the tickets are sold out.

be surprised

She was surprised to discover that he had never learned how to swim.

There are also many nouns that are commonly followed by infinitives.

advice

His advice to continue was good.

appeal

The appeal to reduce pollution was ineffective.

attempt

Her attempt to find her glasses was unsuccessful.

chance

In New York, you will have a chance to improve your English.

decision

The decision to increase homework was not popular.

desire

His desire to get a good job motivated him.

dream

Her dream to become an actress was never realized.

goal

His goal to run a marathon seemed unrealistic.

motivation

Her motivation to enter university impressed everyone.

need

Bob's need to be the center of attention was irritating.

opportunity

The opportunity to live in New York interested Sandra.

order

They followed the general's order to retreat.

permission

She couldn't get permission to go on the ski trip.

plan

Mary's plan to move to France bothered her parents.

preparation

NASA's preparations to launch on Monday moved forward.

proposal

Her proposal to host the party was accepted by the committee.

recommendation

His recommendation to close the school upset everyone.

refusal

Debra's refusal to help did not go unnoticed.

reminder

Her reminder to review the vocabulary helped me pass the test.

request

Their request to participate was granted.

requirement

Their requirement to speak four languages was unreasonable.

suggestion

His suggestion to leave seemed like a good idea.

tendency

His tendency to tap his desk during a test annoyed me.

wish

Her wish to be treated normally was respected.

way

One way to improve your English is to read novels.

You will also notice that infinitives are frequently used to express the idea of "in order to do something."

Look at the following examples:

He bought the English dictionary to look up difficult words.

(= in order to look up)

Jen sold her car to get the money that she needed.

(= in order to get)

Edward uses the internet to learn Spanish.

(= in order to learn)

This idea of "in order to do something" is found in many English patterns.

too

[too + adjective/adverb + infinitive]

Examples:

*The box is **too heavy to carry**.*

*The television is **too expensive to buy**.*

*John ran **too slowly to win** the race.*

*We arrived **too late to see** the beginning of the movie.*

enough

[adjective/adverb + enough + infinitive]

Examples:

*She is **tall enough to reach** the book on the shelf.*

*Jim was **smart enough to enter** the best middle school in the city.*

*Linda studied **hard enough to pass** the test.*

[enough + noun(s) + infinitive]

Examples:

*He has **enough money to buy** his own car.*

*Diana needs **enough time to finish** her homework in the morning before school.*

Certain expressions are followed by "ING" forms.

Examples:

*He had fun **fishing**.*

*They had difficulty **finding** a parking place.*

*She spent time **practicing** the piano.*

Verbs which indicate location can often be followed by "ING" forms.

[verb of location + location + verb + ing]

Examples:

*Rachel sat **in her car waiting** for her son.*

*Melissa lay **in bed thinking** about her future.*

*Doug held **on to his seat trying** to forget that the plane was getting ready to take off.*

Congratulations on getting to the end of Gerunds and Infinitives.

It's our longest and - for many students - our most complicated lesson.

You've also reached the end of the Qwyqr Advanced lessons. So now you are ready to take the test. Before you take the test ... here's a story so you can give your brain a rest!

It's story time

Now that we've learned a lot about gerunds and infinitives, let's see how they are used in a short story. As you read the following story, pay attention to how the gerunds and infinitives are used.

Mike and Ricky loved **to play** together in the summertime. Mike would often ride his bicycle to Ricky's house, and they enjoyed **hanging out** and **playing** sports. Each boy hoped **to become** a professional athlete in the future. Mike loved **to play** baseball, and he wanted **to become** a pitcher. Ricky was bigger than most kids, so he dreamed of **becoming** a star football player.

When Mike and Ricky were playing sports together, they never thought about **stopping**. They couldn't stand **to sit** inside the house. Sometimes Ricky's mom tried **to convince** them **to stay** at home and relax. It never worked. After a while, Mike and Ricky would start **to talk** about sports, and then they would attempt **to sneak** out of the house without Ricky's mom noticing.

The local school had a football field, and Ricky and Mike would just run around the field throwing the football back and forth between them. Then they would find time **to practice** baseball. It was difficult **to practice hitting** because they didn't have enough kids **playing** with them.

Sometimes, they would sleep over at each other's house. So, after they had finished **playing** sports all day, they finally felt tired and sat down **to watch** TV before bed. Of course, they proceeded **to watch** sports on TV before they finally fell asleep.

For those two friends, when they think about the summertime they remember **thinking** about, **talking** about, **dreaming** about, and of course, **playing** sports.

That's the end of the story.

Reminder. We're developing an online test for Gerunds & Infinitives.

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Conclusion

Congratulations on finishing this English Masterclass ebook

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