



Master 1, Architecture
Semester 2

Course 09

Gerunds and Infinitives

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Introduction

This course is designed to help you understand the distinctions between gerunds and infinitives and how to use them effectively in sentences. Gerunds and infinitives are verbal forms that can function as nouns, and mastering their usage is essential for clear and precise communication.

You will develop proficiency in distinguishing between gerunds and infinitives and employing them correctly in various contexts.

Course Objectives

- Understand the definitions and characteristics of gerunds and infinitives.
- Differentiate between gerunds and infinitives in terms of form and function.
- Learn the rules and guidelines for using gerunds and infinitives in sentences.



Section 1

Introduction to Gerunds and Infinitives



1. Definition and Characteristics of Gerunds and Infinitives:

Gerund: A gerund is a verb form that functions as a noun in a sentence. It is formed by adding the suffix "-ing" to the base form of a verb. For example, in the sentence "Swimming is my favorite hobby," "swimming" acts as the subject and is a gerund.

Infinitive: An infinitive is the base form of a verb preceded by the particle "to." It can function as a noun, adjective, or adverb in a sentence. For example, in the sentence "To travel is my dream," "to travel" acts as the subject and is an infinitive.



2. Overview of How Gerunds and Infinitives Function as Verbal Nouns:

Gerunds and infinitives both function as nouns, which means they can act as subjects, objects, or complements in sentences:

- Gerunds often represent actions or activities and can take on the roles of subjects, objects, or complements, just like other nouns. They are formed by adding **"-ing"** to the base form of a verb.
- Infinitives, preceded by **"to,"** can also function as nouns. They represent actions in their most basic form and can serve as subjects, objects, or complements. Infinitives are versatile and can be used in a variety of sentence structures.

3. Importance of Understanding Gerunds and Infinitives for Clear Communication:

- Clear communication relies on using language effectively to convey meaning accurately and efficiently.
- Gerunds and infinitives are common structures in English sentences and are used to express a wide range of ideas and actions.
- Understanding how to use gerunds and infinitives correctly helps speakers and writers express themselves more precisely and effectively.





Key Learning Points:

- Gerunds and infinitives are verbal forms that function as nouns in sentences.
- Gerunds are formed by adding "-ing" to the base form of a verb, while infinitives are formed with the particle "to" followed by the base form of the verb.
- Both gerunds and infinitives can act as subjects, objects, or complements in sentences.
- Understanding gerunds and infinitives is essential for clear and effective communication in English, as they are commonly used in a variety of contexts.

Section 2

Form and Structure of Gerunds



1. Identifying the Form and Structure of Gerunds (-ing Form of the Verb):

- Gerunds are formed by adding the suffix "-ing" to the base form of a verb.

For example:

Base verb: walk

Gerund: walking

- Gerunds retain the function of a verb (expressing action or state) while also functioning as nouns in a sentence.
- Gerunds can be used in various grammatical contexts, including as subjects, objects, and complements.



2. Analyzing Examples of Gerunds in Sentences:

Example 1: "Swimming is good exercise."

In this sentence, "swimming" is a gerund acting as the subject of the sentence.

Example 2: "She enjoys dancing."

Here, "dancing" is a gerund functioning as the object of the verb "enjoys."

Example 3: "His favorite activity is hiking."

In this case, "hiking" serves as a gerund functioning as the complement of the verb "is."



3. Understanding the Role of Gerunds as Subjects, Objects, and Complements:

- Gerunds can function as subjects at the beginning of sentences, expressing the action or activity being performed.
- Gerunds can also serve as objects, receiving the action of a verb or acting as the object of a preposition.
- Furthermore, gerunds can function as complements, completing the meaning of a verb or linking verb and often expressing the subject's identity or state.

Section 3

Form and Structure of Infinitives



1. Identifying the Form and Structure of Infinitives (to + Base Form of the Verb):

Infinitives are formed by preceding the base form of a verb with the particle "to."

For example:

Base verb: walk

Infinitive: to walk

Infinitives function as verbal nouns, often expressing an action or purpose in its most basic form.

Infinitives are versatile and can be used in various grammatical contexts, including as subjects, objects, and complements.



2. Analyzing Examples of Infinitives in Sentences:

Example 1: "To learn is to grow."

Here, "to learn" is an infinitive acting as the subject of the sentence.

Example 2: "She wants to dance."

In this sentence, "to dance" is an infinitive functioning as the object of the verb "wants."

Example 3: "His goal is to travel the world."

In this example, "to travel" serves as an infinitive complementing the verb "is."



3. Understanding the Role of Infinitives as Subjects, Objects, and Complements:

- Infinitives can function as subjects, representing the action or purpose of the sentence.
- Infinitives can also serve as objects, receiving the action of a verb or acting as the object of a preposition.
- Additionally, infinitives can function as complements, completing the meaning of a verb or linking verb and often expressing the subject's intention, desire, or purpose.

Section 4

Gerunds and Infinitives as Subjects



1. Exploring the Use of Gerunds and Infinitives as Subjects of Sentences:

- **Gerunds as subjects:**

Gerunds are often used as subjects when the focus is on the action itself rather than on a specific doer.

Example: "Swimming is good exercise." (Here, "swimming" is the gerund subject.)

- **Infinitives as subjects:**

Infinitives are used as subjects to express general actions or intentions.

Example: "To read is to learn." (Here, "to read" is the infinitive subject.)

Section 5

Gerunds and Infinitives as Objects



1. Examining the Use of Gerunds and Infinitives as Objects of Verbs and Prepositions:

Some verbs are typically followed by gerunds, while others are followed by infinitives.

- Common verbs followed by gerunds include: enjoy, dislike, avoid, consider, admit, and suggest.

Example: "She enjoys swimming in the ocean."

- Common verbs followed by infinitives include: want, need, hope, plan, decide, and promise.

Example: "He wants to learn how to play the piano."

- Some verbs can be followed by both gerunds and infinitives, with a change in meaning.

Example: "I stopped smoking." (Gerund - action ceased)

"I stopped to smoke." (Infinitive - stopped in order to smoke)

Section 6

Gerunds and Infinitives as Complements

1. Understanding How Gerunds and Infinitives Function as Complements of Verbs and Adjectives:

- **Verbs followed by gerunds:**

Some verbs are commonly followed by gerunds as complements. These verbs often express enjoyment, preference, or perception.

Example: "She enjoys swimming." (Gerund complement of the verb "enjoys")

- **Verbs followed by infinitives:**

Other verbs are typically followed by infinitives as complements. These verbs often express intention, desire, or obligation.

Example: "He promised to help." (Infinitive complement of the verb "promised")



2. Analyzing Examples of Verbs and Adjectives Followed by Gerunds or Infinitives:

- **Adjectives followed by gerunds or infinitives:**

Certain adjectives can be followed by either gerunds or infinitives, with a change in meaning.

Example: "He is afraid of swimming." (Gerund - afraid of the action)

"He is afraid to swim." (Infinitive - afraid to engage in the action)



Section 7

Verb Patterns with Gerunds and Infinitives

1. Exploring Common Verb Patterns that Take Gerunds or Infinitives as Objects:

Certain verbs are commonly followed by either gerunds or infinitives as objects. Understanding these verb patterns is essential for accurate and effective communication.

Examples of common verb patterns with gerunds:

Enjoy + gerund: "I enjoy swimming."

Consider + gerund: "She considered quitting her job."

Admit + gerund: "He admitted stealing the cookies."



1. Exploring Common Verb Patterns that Take Gerunds or Infinitives as Objects:

Examples of common verb patterns with infinitives:

Want + infinitive: "She wants to travel the world."

Need + infinitive: "We need to finish this project."

Plan + infinitive: "They plan to visit Paris next summer."





2. Understanding Differences in Meaning and Usage between Verbs Followed by Gerunds and Infinitives:

- Verbs followed by gerunds often imply ongoing or habitual actions, while verbs followed by infinitives often convey intentions, desires, or plans.
- For example, "I like swimming" suggests a general enjoyment of the activity, while "I like to swim" indicates a specific intention or desire.
- Understanding these nuances helps convey precise meanings and intentions in communication.

Section 8

Gerunds and Infinitives with Modals and Auxiliaries



1. Discussing the Use of Gerunds and Infinitives with Modal Verbs and Auxiliary Verbs:

- Modal verbs and auxiliary verbs are often followed by gerunds or infinitives to express various meanings such as necessity, ability, permission, and obligation.
- Understanding how gerunds and infinitives interact with modal verbs and auxiliaries is crucial for expressing different shades of meaning in English.

2. Analyzing Examples of Modal Verbs and Auxiliary Verbs Followed by Gerunds or Infinitives:

Example of modal verbs followed by gerunds:

- "She can't help laughing at his jokes." (Can't help + gerund)

Example of modal verbs followed by infinitives:

- "You should try *to speak* more slowly." (Should try+ infinitive)

Example of auxiliary verbs followed by gerunds or infinitives:

- "He is considering *quitting* his job." (Is considering + gerund)
- "She has promised *to help* with the project." (Has promised + infinitive)





3. Understanding the Nuances and Meanings Conveyed by Gerunds and Infinitives with Modals and Auxiliaries:

- Gerunds and infinitives with modal verbs and auxiliaries can convey different meanings and nuances depending on the context.

For example, "I can't stop laughing" (gerund) suggests inability to control laughter, while "I can't stop to laugh" (infinitive) implies being too busy to pause for laughter.

Section 9

Gerunds and Infinitives in Passive Constructions



1. Understanding How Gerunds and Infinitives Can Be Used in Passive Constructions:

- Passive constructions involve the subject of the sentence receiving the action rather than performing it.
- Both gerunds and infinitives can be used in passive constructions to convey this passive voice.



2. Analyzing Examples of Passive Sentences with Gerunds and Infinitives:

Passive construction with gerunds:

- "Swimming is enjoyed by many people." (Gerund + passive construction)

Passive construction with infinitives:

- "To be invited to the party is a great honor." (Infinitive + passive construction)

In these examples, the subjects ("swimming" and "to be invited") receive the action, while the gerunds and infinitives function as the main verbs in the passive constructions.

Section 10

Common Errors and Pitfalls



1. Common Errors in Gerund and Infinitive Usage:

- Confusing gerunds with present participles:

Gerunds and present participles both end in "-ing," but they serve different functions. A gerund functions as a noun, while a present participle functions as part of a verb tense (e.g., present progressive). For example, confusing "I enjoy swimming" (gerund, used as a noun) with "I am swimming" (present participle, part of the present progressive tense).



1. Common Errors in Gerund and Infinitive Usage:

- Using infinitives instead of gerunds or vice versa:

Sometimes, learners use infinitives or gerunds incorrectly because they don't understand which one is appropriate in a particular context. For example, confusing "I like to swim" (infinitive) with "I like swimming" (gerund). The choice between infinitives and gerunds depends on the verb that precedes them and the meaning intended.



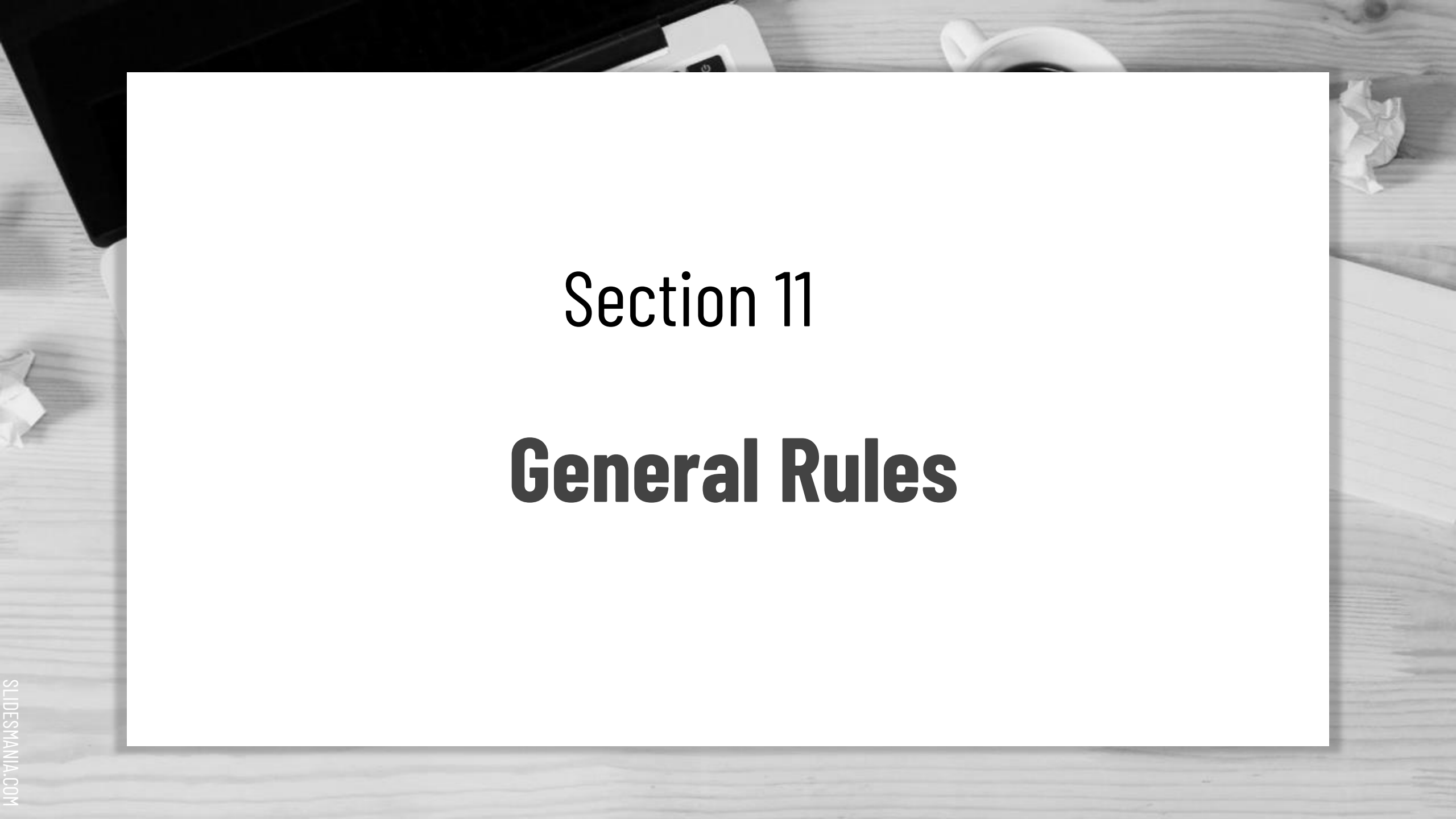
1. Common Errors in Gerund and Infinitive Usage:

- Omitting the infinitive marker "to": Forgetting to use "to" before an infinitive verb can lead to grammatical errors. For example, saying "She wants go home" **incorrect** instead of "She wants to go home." **correct!**
- Using the wrong preposition: Some verbs are followed by specific prepositions when used with gerunds or infinitives. Using the wrong preposition can lead to incorrect sentences. For example, saying "I'm interested to learn French" **incorrect** instead of "I'm interested in learning French." **correct!**



1. Common Errors in Gerund and Infinitive Usage:

- Misplacing adverbs: Placing adverbs incorrectly within sentences containing gerunds or infinitives can change the intended meaning or result in awkward phrasing. For example, "She quickly decided to leave" versus "She decided to quickly leave."
- Forgetting subject-verb agreement: When a gerund or infinitive is used as a subject, it should agree in number with the verb. For example, "Running every day keeps me fit" (singular subject) versus "Running marathons require dedication" (plural subject).



Section 11

General Rules

Gerunds (verb + -ing):

- Use gerunds as subjects of sentences:
Example: "Swimming is good exercise."
- Use gerunds after prepositions:
Example: "I'm interested in swimming."
- Use gerunds after certain verbs, like: Enjoy, prefer, dislike, finish, suggest, admit, avoid, consider, and imagine.
Example: "She enjoys swimming."
- Use gerunds after possessive adjectives:
Example: "I appreciate your helping me."





Infinitives (to + base form of verb):

- Use infinitives after certain verbs, like: Want, need, plan, hope, promise, expect, agree, and decide.
Example: "She wants to swim."
- Use infinitives after adjectives:
Example: "It's important to exercise regularly."
- Use infinitives after certain nouns:
Example: "I have the desire to learn."

Section 12

Practice Exercises

Exercise 01:

Which of the following is a gerund?

- a) to swim
- b) swimming
- c) swim
- d) swam



Exercise 01:

Which of the following verbs is typically followed by a gerund?

- a) want
- b) promise
- c) prefer
- d) hope



Exercise 01:

In the sentence "He enjoys _____ to the beach," which option correctly completes the sentence?

- a) go
- b) going
- c) to go
- d) went



Exercise 01:

Which of the following verbs can be followed by both a gerund and an infinitive, with a change in meaning?

- a) play
- b) stop
- c) love
- d) continue



Exercise 01:

Which of the following sentences contains an infinitive acting as the subject?

- a) Swimming is good exercise.
- b) To swim in the ocean is her dream.
- c) She enjoys swimming.
- d) He decided to go for a walk.



Exercise 01:

Answers:

b) swimming

c) prefer

b) going

b) stop

b) To swim in the ocean is her dream.



Exercise 02:

Choose the correct form (gerund or infinitive) to complete each sentence. Be mindful of the verbs and their patterns.

1. She suggested _____ to the cinema tonight.

a) going

b) to go

2. He enjoys _____ tennis every weekend.

a) playing

b) to play





Exercise 02:

3. They decided _____ a picnic in the park.

a) having

b) to have

4. I avoid _____ spicy food because it upsets my stomach.

a) eating

b) to eat

5. Sarah promised _____ me with my homework after school.

a) helping

b) to help

Exercise 02:



6. It's important _____ regularly for good health.

- a) exercising
- b) to exercise

7. We discussed _____ Italy next summer.

- a) visiting
- b) to visit

8. The teacher encouraged us _____ questions during the lesson.

- a) asking
- b) to ask

Exercise 02:

9. He admitted ____ a mistake.

a) making

b) to make

10. We can't afford _____ a new car right now.

a) buying

b) to buy



Answers:

1. She suggested **going** to the cinema tonight.
2. He enjoys **playing** tennis every weekend.
3. They decided **to have** a picnic in the park.
4. I avoid **eating** spicy food because it upsets my stomach.
5. Sarah promised **to help** me with my homework after school.
6. It's important **to exercise** regularly for good health.
7. We discussed **visiting** Italy next summer.
8. The teacher encouraged us **to ask** questions during the lesson.
9. He admitted **making** a mistake.
10. We can't afford **to buy** a new car right now.

A black and white photograph of a wooden desk. In the top left, a portion of a laptop is visible. In the top right, there is a white coffee cup. Scattered on the desk are several pieces of crumpled paper. A white rectangular box is centered on the desk, containing the text 'Thank You !' and 'Do you have any questions?'.

Thank You !

Do you have any questions?