



# Gerunds and Infinitives

## ► Overview

AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE GERUNDS	
	GERUND
I hate	<b>driving.</b> <b>driving slowly.</b> <b>driving in traffic.</b> <b>driving a big car.</b>
I prefer	<b>not driving.</b>

AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE INFINITIVES	
	INFINITIVE
I hate	<b>to drive.</b> <b>to drive slowly.</b> <b>to drive in traffic.</b> <b>to drive a big car.</b>
I prefer	<b>not to drive.</b>

## ► Gerunds

GERUNDS AS SUBJECTS	
GERUND	VERB PHRASE
<b>Owning a car</b>	costs a lot. is expensive.

GERUNDS AFTER VERBS		
SUBJECT	VERB	GERUND
Drivers	should consider	<b>slowing down.</b>
Experts	suggest	<b>driving slowly.</b>

## ► Infinitives

IT SUBJECT... + INFINITIVE		
IT	VERB + NOUN	INFINITIVE
<b>It</b>	costs a lot	<b>to own a car.</b>

IT	VERB + ADJECTIVE	INFINITIVE
<b>It</b>	is expensive	<b>to own a car.</b>

INFINITIVES AFTER VERBS		
	VERB	INFINITIVE
Drivers	agree	<b>to slow down.</b>

	VERB	OBJECT	INFINITIVE
Experts	warn	people	<b>to drive slowly.</b>

	VERB	(OBJECT)	INFINITIVE
I	want		<b>to drive carefully.</b>
I	want	him	<b>to drive carefully.</b>

## Overview

- All verbs, except modal auxiliaries, have gerund and infinitive forms.
- A gerund can be one word (*driving*) or part of a longer phrase, with an adverb (*driving slowly*), a prepositional phrase (*driving in traffic*), or an object (*driving a big car*).
- All verbs, except modal auxiliaries, have infinitive forms.
- An infinitive can be two words (*to drive*) or part of a longer phrase with an adverb (*to drive slowly*), a prepositional phrase (*to drive in traffic*), or an object (*to drive a big car*).

## Gerunds as Subjects

- A gerund can function as the subject of a sentence. Gerunds function as singular nouns and take singular verbs. A gerund can be replaced by the pronoun *it*.

Owning a car costs a lot. (It costs a lot.)

## Gerunds After Verbs

- Here are some examples of verbs followed by gerunds (see 11.5 for a list of more verbs):

advise	consider	deny	enjoy	go	miss	practice	suggest
avoid	delay	dislike	finish	mind	postpone	recommend	

## It Subject ... + Infinitive

- Although an infinitive can function as the subject of a sentence (*To own a car is expensive*), this is not common. Instead, the pronoun *it* begins the sentence. It has the same meaning as the infinitive it replaces.

It costs a lot **to own a car**. (It = to own a car)

- *It* is followed by *be* or one of a limited group of verbs. For example:

appear    be    cost    look    pay    seem    take

## Infinitives After Verbs

- Infinitives after verbs appear in one of three patterns:

### Verb + Infinitive

agree	decide	learn	plan	refuse
appear	hope	offer	seem	wait

### Verb + Object + Infinitive

advise	force	invite	remind	teach	urge
cause	get	order	require	tell	warn

### **Verb + (Object) + Infinitive**

(These verbs can be followed by the infinitive with or without an object.)

ask      expect      need      promise      wish  
choose      help      pay      want      would like

- See 11.6 for a list of more verbs followed by infinitives.