

The handout of English (S01)

Level: L02

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1-Gerunds and Infinitives:

1-1 Gerunds.

- What is a Gerund?

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- What is an Infinitive?

1-3 A gerund or an Infinitive?

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- Common Verbs that can precede either gerunds or infinitives but change meanings:

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- The uses of active and passive voice.
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1- Gerunds and Infinitives:

The **gerund** and the **infinitive** are forms of verbs that act as nouns in the sentence.

1-1 Gerunds.

°What is a gerund?

A gerund is formed using the ending “ing” i.e a gerund is a verb in its “ing” form (verb+ing) that functions as a noun, that names an activity rather than a person or a thing. Any action verb can be made into a gerund.

Examples:

- 1/ **Reading** is always fun.
- 2/ I love **watching** it rains.
- 3/ She can't tolerate **complaining**.
- 4/ My father could retire, but he keeps **working**.

1-2 Infinitives.

° What is an infinitive?

An infinitive is formed using the preposition “to”, i.e an infinitive is a verb form (to + verb base) that acts as other parts of speech in a sentence.

Examples:

- 1/ I can't afford **to buy** a car.
- 2/ We decided **to move** to England next year.
- 3/ I am glad **to see** you.
- 4/ **To read** is **to learn** more.

1-3 A gerund or an infinitive?

When one verb is followed by another verb, that verb must be a gerund or an infinitive. Generally, we use the gerund after some verbs and the infinitive after others, but there are some verbs with which we can use either the gerund or the infinitive.

A/ Common verbs and phrases that are followed by a gerund.

The following is a list of the verbs and expressions with which we can use only gerunds:

Admit, advise, avoid, be used to, can't help, can't stand, consider, deny, discuss, dislike, end up, enjoy, feel like, finish, forget, get used to, give up, go on, have difficulty, have problems, have trouble, imagine, it's no use, it's worthwhile, keep, look forward to mention, mind, miss, recommend, remember, quit, spend time, stop, suggest, understand, waste time, work at.

B/ Common verbs that are followed by an infinitive.

The following is a list of verbs with which we can use infinitives only:

Afford, agree, appear, arrange, ask, care, decide, demand, expect, fail, forget, hope, learn, manage, mean, offer, plan, prepare, pretend, promise, refuse, remember, seem, stop, volunteer, wait, want, wish.

C/ Common Verbs that can precede either gerunds or infinitives without changing meanings.

The following is a list of verbs that can be used with gerunds and infinitives without causing a change in meanings:

Begin, continue, hate, intend, like, love, prefer, start.

E.g.:

1. **Gerund: Loving** others is to make them happy.
2. **Infinitive: To love** others is to make them happy.

D/ Common Verbs that can precede either gerunds or infinitives but change meanings:

The following is a list of verbs that can be followed by a gerund or infinitive but with a change in meaning (The meaning of the sentence that consists the same verb may change with the use of a gerund or an infinitive):

Forget, mean, remember, stop.

E.g.:

1. **Gerund:** I forgot **feeding** the cats.
(meaning that I forgot that I fed the cats).
2. **Infinitive:** I forgot **to feed** the cats.
(meaning that I forgot to give the cats food).

NOTE:

We can use the gerund and the infinitive as Subjects, objects or complements, but the most common use of the gerund is subject.

Examples:

Subject:

- 1- Climbing is one of the most dangerous sports. (GERUND).
- 2- To play is the kids' favorite activity. (INFINITIVE).

Object:

- 1- I adore cooking. (GERUND).
- 2- They like to swim. (INFINITIVE).

Complement:

- 1- The best thing to do in holidays is traveling. (GERUND).
- 2- My favorite hobby is to watch horror movies. (INFINITIVE).

2- Active Voice and passive Voice

In sentences, verbs are either active or passive in voice. So, what is the active voice? And the passive voice? What are the differences between the two?

1-The Active Voice:

- In the **active voice**, the subject and verb relationship is straightforward: **the subject** is performing an action (The action of the verb is focused on the subject).
- In the active voice the doer of the action is clear.

E.g.:

1. **Darine** loves Birdwatching.
2. **The rain** is pouring.
3. **Winter** is my favorite season.

2-The passive Voice:

- In the **passive voice**, the action's target is the focus. Passive voice is used when we want to give more importance to **the action** rather than the subject (the action is the focus, not the subject).
- It is not important (or not known) who does the action.

E.g.:

1. The car **was invented** about a hundred years ago.
2. It **was rumored** that the company would lay off a few people soon.
3. All the dogs **were adopted**.

3-Th uses of the active and the passive voice:

- For most of the writing we do, like emails, blog posts, and many kinds of essays, **the active voice** is a more effective way to communicate the ideas, themes, and facts we're expressing.
- When we want to give more importance to the action and not who completed it. When we do not know or do not want to mention the doer of the action, we use **the passive voice** (this is usually used when reporting news to emphasize the action that occurred rather than the individual or group who committed the action and also in scientific and, in some cases, historical reports).

E.g.:

- a. The governor was inaugurated at the statehouse.
- b. A civilian has been killed.
- c. The rats were placed into the maze.

4-Changing from active to passive Voice:

To change a sentence from an active one to a passive one there are several points to bear in mind:

- 1- **The object** of an active voice sentence becomes **the subject** of a passive voice sentence.
- 2- The **principal verb** in the active voice is substituted by an **auxiliary verb "to be"** in **the same verb tense**, and the verb is in **the past participle** form.
- 3- **The subject** in the active voice becomes **the complement** in the passive.

- 4- In in the passive we mention the subject who completed the action (agent), this subject is normally introduced in the passive by **the preposition "by"**.

NOTE:

The active voice form:

SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT

The passive voice form:

SUBJECT+(AUXILARRY VERB + PAST PARTICIPLE) + BY+COMPLEMENT

Examples:

Active Voice	Passive Voice
1- Jane Austen wrote the book.	1- The book was written by Jane Austen.
2- I watched the movie.	2- The movie was watched.
3- The housekeeper will clean the house.	3- The house will be cleaned by the housekeeper.

3/ British vs American English

The most common difference between British English and American English is in pronunciation. But some words are also different in each variety of English, and there are also a few differences in the way they use grammar. Here are four of the most common grammatical differences between British and American English.

1- Present perfect and past simple:

In British English, people use the present perfect to speak about a past action that they consider relevant to the present. The present perfect can be used in the same way in American English, but people often use it when they consider the action finished. This is especially common with the adverbs already, just and yet.

E.g.:

British: He isn't hungry. He has already had lunch.

American: He isn't hungry. He already had lunch.

2- Got and gotten:

In British English, the past participle of the verb get is got.

In American English, people say gotten.

Note that have got is commonly used in both British and American English to speak about possession or necessity. have gotten is not correct here.

E.g.:

British: She has got serious about her career.

American: She has gotten serious about her career.

3- Have and take:

In British English, the verbs have, and take are commonly used with nouns like bath, shower, wash to speak about washing and with nouns like break, holiday, rest to speak about resting.

In American English, only the verb take (and not the verb have) is used this way.

British: I'm going to have/take a shower.

American: I'm going to take a shower.

4- Shall

In British English, people often use Shall I ...? to offer to do something and/or Shall we ...? to make a suggestion.

It is very unusual for speakers of American English to use shall. They normally use an alternative like Should/Can I ...? or Do you want/Would you like ...? or How about ...? instead.

E.g.:

British: It's hot in here. Shall I open the window?

American: It's hot in here. Can I open the window?