

# Verbs followed by a gerund: enjoy, avoid, suggest

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A group of common verbs takes an -ing form after them: enjoy, avoid, suggest, finish, practise and mind. Learn the group as a fixed pattern.

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## The rule

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### The gerund after the verb

- Some verbs take -ing directly: "I enjoy swimming."
- The -ing form works like a noun in this position.
- The infinitive after these verbs sounds wrong: "I enjoy to swim" is a classic error.
- There is no rule for the list, so learn the verbs as a group.

### The core gerund group

- Enjoy, avoid and mind: "Do you mind waiting?"
- Finish, practise and keep: "She finished writing the report."
- Suggest, recommend and consider: "He suggested taking a taxi."
- Admit, deny and miss: "He admitted cheating."

### More verbs that take -ing

- Imagine, involve and risk: "Imagine living there."
- Give up, put off and look forward to: "She gave up smoking."
- Be worth and can't help: "It is worth trying."
- Feel like and it is no use: "I feel like sleeping."

### Gerund after prepositions

- Every preposition takes a gerund, not an infinitive: "good at drawing".
- Interested in, afraid of and tired of: "She is tired of waiting."
- Before, after and without: "After eating, we left."
- This rule is reliable, unlike the verb list.

### Gerund or infinitive with a change of meaning

- Remember, stop and try change meaning with the pattern.
- "I stopped smoking" means I quit; "I stopped to smoke" means I paused to have a cigarette.
- "I remember locking the door" is a memory; "I remembered to lock the door" is a task.
- "I tried calling" tests the phone; "I tried to call" makes an effort.

## Questions

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Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. I enjoy \_\_\_ in the sea.

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2. She avoids \_\_\_ at night.

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3. Do you mind \_\_\_ a moment?

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4. He finished \_\_\_ the report.

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5. They suggested \_\_\_ the early train.

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6. She admitted \_\_\_ a mistake.

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7. Imagine \_\_\_ by the ocean.

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8. She gave up \_\_\_ last year.

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9. I am interested in \_\_\_ Arabic.

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10. After \_\_\_, we went for a walk.

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11. He denied \_\_\_ the window.

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12. Keep \_\_\_ until you reach the corner.

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13. It is worth \_\_\_ this book.

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14. I cannot help \_\_\_ when I watch that film.

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15. We put off \_\_\_ the decision until Monday.

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16. She is tired of \_\_\_ the same questions.

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17. I feel like \_\_\_ a break.

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18. Would you consider \_\_\_ the offer?

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19. He risked \_\_\_ his job.

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20. "I stopped smoking" means \_\_\_.

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## Answer key

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1. **swimming** — Enjoy is a gerund verb, so the -ing form swimming follows it.
2. **driving** — Avoid takes the gerund driving, not the infinitive.
3. **waiting** — Mind takes the gerund waiting.
4. **writing** — Finish takes the gerund writing, which names the completed activity.
5. **taking** — Suggest takes the gerund taking, never a to-infinitive.
6. **making** — Admit takes the gerund making for the action that is admitted.
7. **living** — Imagine takes the gerund living.
8. **smoking** — Give up, like the other phrasal verbs here, takes a gerund.
9. **learning** — The preposition in takes the gerund learning.
10. **eating** — The preposition after takes the gerund eating.
11. **breaking** — Deny takes the gerund breaking when it rejects the accusation.
12. **walking** — Keep takes the gerund walking to show a continuing action.
13. **reading** — Worth takes the gerund reading.
14. **laughing** — Can't help takes the gerund laughing.
15. **making** — Put off takes the gerund making for the delayed action.
16. **answering** — The preposition of takes the gerund answering.
17. **taking** — Feel like takes the gerund taking.
18. **accepting** — Consider takes the gerund accepting.
19. **losing** — Risk takes the gerund losing.
20. **I quit smoking** — Stop plus a gerund names the activity that ends, so the habit stopped.