Infinitive and gerund

Infinitive

Definition

An infinitive is the basic form of a verb not associated with a subject or tense.

Construction

Affirmative: 'to' + bare infinitive

to go

Negative: 'not to' + bare infinitive

not to go

'to don't go' 样

Note that the bare infinitive is the infinitive without 'to': (not) go

Uses

As a subject	As a complement	As an object
To be on time is important.	The important thing is <mark>to be</mark> on time.	We need <mark>to be</mark> on time.
Not to be on time is impolite.	The important thing is not to be late.	We promised not to be late.

Note that as a subject, the gerund is more common than the infinitive.

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Gerund

Definition

A gerund is a noun formed from a verb - it is the name of an activity or a state.

Construction

Affirmative: bare infinitive + 'ing'

going

Negative: 'not' + bare infinitive + 'ing'

not going

Note that we sometimes have to double the last letter of the verb or remove the 'e' at the end. Here are some examples:

swimming	hiking
travelling	dancing
shopping	filing

Uses

As a subject	As a complement	As an object
Being in this team has lots of advantages.	What I like about this job is being in a small team.	I love <mark>being</mark> in this team.
Cycling is good exercise.	My favourite sport is cycling.	l enjoy cycling.
Not having any free time is terrible.	The best thing about my job is not having a long journey to work.	I hate not having enough free time.

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