

Gerunds for likes and dislikes

Introduction



They enjoy **cycling**.

Definition

A gerund is a noun formed from a verb with 'ing' - it is the name of an activity or a state. For example, 'going'.

We use some verbs and expressions with gerunds to talk about likes and dislikes.

Construction

- Affirmative:**
1. **Subject + verb + gerund**
I like **cooking**.
 2. **Subject + 'be' + expression + gerund**
I'm keen on **cooking**.
- Negative:**
1. **Subject + 'do' + 'not' + verb + gerund**
I don't like **cooking**.
 2. **Subject + 'be' + 'not' + expression + gerund**
I'm not keen on **cooking**.
- Interrogative:**
1. **'Do' + subject + verb + gerund**
Do you like **cooking**?
 2. **'be' + subject + expression + gerund**
Are you keen on **cooking**?

Uses

Here are some examples: `<?xml:namespace prefix = "o" ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />`

To talk about what we like doing	To talk about what we don't like doing
like	don't like
enjoy	dislike
prefer	don't enjoy
love*	hate*
adore*	can't stand* [informal]
to be keen on	not keen on [more common in negative]
to be fond of	
to be crazy about* [mainly US]	

* These expressions are stronger.

'Don't like' or 'dislike'?

These verbs have the same meaning but 'don't like' is more common. We can use 'dislike' as a noun, usually in the plural form:

Tell me about your likes and dislikes.

I like **talking** to customers but I don't like **writing** reports.

Prefer

'Prefer' with a gerund is similar to 'like' and 'enjoy' but there is a comparison with other activities:

Do you prefer **reading** or **watching** TV?

Do you like **working** from home?

Yes, I do but I prefer **being** at the office.

Examples



They love **playing** football after school; they aren't crazy about **doing** their homework!



Nicola likes **working** in a shop because she enjoys **meeting** people.



English people don't like **complaining** in restaurants.



She's keen on **gardening**.



Does she enjoy **skiing**? Yes but she prefers **hiking**.



Is he keen on **fishing**? Yes, he loves **being** by the river at weekends.



Do you prefer **going** to concerts or **listening** to CDs?



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