

# 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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Last update: **2023/02/14 14:32**

