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!**

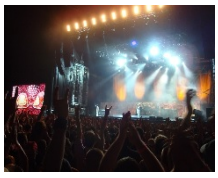
 **Nicola likes working in a shop because she enjoys meeting people.**

 **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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