

# 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'** ❌

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

### Uses

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

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

# 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  
travelling  
shopping

hiking  
dancing  
filing

## Uses

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



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