

The Infinitive

Tense	Active	Passive
Present Simple	To read	To be read
Present Continuous	To be reading	/
Perfect Simple	To have read	To have been read
Perfect continuous	To have been reading	/

The Participle

	Active	Passive
Present Participle	Reading	Being read
Past Participle	Stood	(only transitive verbs) read
Perfect Participle	Having read	Having been read

The participle may function as a verb (Leaving the building, I met an old friend. ; She sat there waiting for him to come out.; I finally have my story sketched out.; Having finished my homework, I left.) or an adjective (She has an interesting mind. That surely was an entertaining sight. She gave him a fixed look. Do you know the number of those killed?).

The Gerund

	Active	Passive
Present	Reading	Being read
Perfect	Having read	Having been read

The gerund may function as

- A subject: Running is his passion. My going away so suddenly was a shock to her.
- A verb: My mistake was having postponed the inevitable.
- An object: I have finished practicing.
- A prepositional object: They insisted on leaving early.
- An adjective: You are late for the wedding ceremony.

Gerund is also used after expressions such as:

- It's no use, it's no good, it's not worth, be capable of, be fond of, be sick of, looking forward to, I can't help, there is no, as well as, in addition to, like, worth, etc.

As well as with the prepositional (phrasal) verbs such as:

- Count on, depend on, be frightened of, tired of, believe in, succeed in, be conscious of, insist on, complain about, apologize for, approve of, etc.

Gerund vs. Participle

She spent her day in writing letters. Vs. She spent her day writing letters. (*same form*)

- Unlike Gerunds, **Participles can be transformed into an adjective clause.** (It is a travelling bag. It is bag for traveling. – gerund; It is a travelling circus. It is a circus that travels.)
- Unlike Participles, **Gerunds may be preceded by prepositions** (I apologize for being late. He was afraid of being robbed. The doctor started by feeling my pulse.)
- Unlike Participles, **Gerunds may be used with articles and can have a plural form:** The findings of the court have been indisputable. I cannot keep track of all his comings and goings.
- **Gerunds go with possessive adjectives:** Excuse my being late. We have just heard of Jim's being injured. He began speaking. She is fond of swimming. My sister's favorite sport is swimming.

Gerunds can express:

- **Future:** Is there any hope of his ever getting better?
- **Past:** I do not remember seeing them before.
- **Same tense as the verb:** It began raining when we left the beach.

A gerund can have its own subject, object, and adverbials:

I have never heard of his being a singer.

I appreciated your inviting me.

Stop talking so much.

He insisted on the tests being carried out immediately.

There are certain verbs that take on gerund as their object:

- to avoid, to burst, to delay, to enjoy, to escape, to excuse, to fancy, to imagine, to finish, to forgive, to give up, to keep on, to mind, to postpone, to put off, to resent, to risk, to suggest, to pardon, cannot help, it's no use, there is no...

Some verbs take either gerunds or infinitives as their objects:

- to begin, to start, to cease, to continue, to like, to love, to dislike, to hate, to prefer, to dread, to fear, to intend, to propose, to remember, to recollect, to attempt, to neglect, to regret.

He began writing. He began to write.

He started running. He started to run.

They love staying out late. They love to stay out late.

Verbs:

- feel, observe, hear, see, watch, look, listen, smell, perceive, and notice **take either a gerund or infinitive, with a change in meaning:**

I saw her cross the street. (she finished crossing)

I saw her crossing the street. (she was still crossing)

I heard them quarrel. I heard them quarreling.

Verbs:

- stop, remember, forget, try – **difference in meaning when taking gerund vs. infinitive:**

I stopped to talk to her. (*I stopped with a goal of talking to her*)

I stopped talking to her. (*I do not talk to her anymore*)

I remembered to lock the door. (*I remembered to do that*)

I remember locking the door. (*I remembered as I was doing that – to have done it*)

I forgot to lock the door. (*did not do it*)

I forgot locking the door. (*I did it but forgot about it*)

I tried to turn the key. (*just tried once*)

I tried turning the key. (*tried - experimented*)