

Preferences – infinitives and gerunds

Intermediate English Week 4, Winter 2021

Using verbs

- In English, every sentence has a verb!
 - She **studies** English.
 - We **played** tennis at the park after school yesterday.
- Sometimes, we use two verbs in a sentence. But, these verbs are never right next to each other
 - Last night, we **watched** a movie and **ate** dinner.
 - They **called** the house on Saturday, but there **was** no one home.
 - ~~NOT I like ride my bicycle. NOT They went swim at the beach.~~
- Often, we change the second verb to an *infinitive* or a *gerund*
 - I like **to ride** my bicycle.
 - They **went swimming** at the beach.

Infinitives

- An infinitive is *to + base verb*
- Use an infinitive like a noun, not a verb
- Infinitives usually come after a verb. They are rarely the subject of a sentence
 - She needs *to go* home at 8:00.
 - They don't want *to spend* a lot of money on clothes.

Gerunds

- A gerund is a *verb + -ing*
- Spelling rules:
 - If it ends with –e, drop the –e: ride → *riding*
 - For consonant – vowel – consonant, double the last letter: swim → *swimming*
 - Change –ie to –ying: die → *dying*
- Gerunds are used like nouns, not like verbs
- We often use gerunds after other verbs. They can also be the subject of a sentence
 - I love *going* to the beach in the summer.
 - *Writing* emails in English is difficult.

Like and love

- We use *like* and *love* with a noun, infinitive, or gerund
 - I like *to sleep* late on the weekends.
 - They love *going* to their favorite Italian restaurant.
- Remember, *love* is stronger than *like*, especially for people

Prefer

- *Prefer* means that you like something more than other similar things
- Be careful, this is not a comparative! Don't use an adjective
 - I prefer doing laundry to vacuuming. ~~NOT I prefer doing laundry is cleaner~~
- You can use an infinitive or a gerund
 - **Cooking** at home is okay, but he prefers **going** to restaurants.
 - You like **to play** tennis, but I prefer **to play** basketball.

Enjoy

- *Enjoy* is similar to like
- We usually use it for activities or things you do, not for objects
 - She enjoys **running**. ~~NOT She enjoys that house.~~
- You can only use a gerund, NOT an infinitive
 - I enjoy **playing** soccer with my friends. ~~NOT I enjoy to play soccer.~~

Hate

- *Hate* is for something you really don't like. It's a very strong word
- We usually use a gerund or noun with it. (Infinitives are correct, but they sound strange.)
 - They hate **driving** in a snowstorm.
 - He hates **doing** the dishes.

Read the sentences and fix the mistakes

1. My older sister likes cook dinner for our family.
2. To ski is my favorite winter sport.
3. When I was a child, I enjoyed to eat ice cream with my friends.
4. She really hates wake up early on the weekends.