

## INFINITIVES, GERUNDS, PARTICIPLES & THE SUBJUNCTIVE

### 1 Infinitive and Gerund Forms

#### ACTIVE

aspect/form	infinitive	gerund
simple	I want <b>to play</b> my new song for you. <b>To be</b> or <b>not to be</b> – that is the question.	<b>Playing</b> tennis is my favourite sport.
continuous	I'd prefer <b>to be living</b> in the city where I work.	–
perfect	You're lucky <b>to have met</b> him in person.	I remember <b>having heard</b> this story before.
perfect continuous	He seemed <b>to have been working</b> a lot those days.	–

#### PASSIVE

aspect/form	infinitive	gerund
simple	He hates <b>to be criticized</b> in front of his friends.	I don't like <b>being told</b> what to do.
continuous	–	–
perfect	I'm thrilled <b>to have been invited</b> .	There is no record of any invoices <b>having been sent</b> .
perfect continuous	–	–

### 2 Infinitive or gerund?

As a general guideline, it helps if you keep in mind that infinitives are often used to talk about events that haven't happened yet. For example, *'I want to have some ice-cream.'* refers to something I would like to do shortly, but haven't done at the moment of speaking.

Gerunds, on the other hand, are often used to talk about events that have already happened or are happening. For example, in the sentence *'The chef admitted to putting rotten eggs in the omelette.'* the action of cooking the rotten eggs happened before the moment of speaking. These general guidelines may help you, but remember that there are exceptions. Each time you learn a new verb, it's a good idea to also learn whether it uses infinitives, gerunds or both. Study the patterns below.

### 3 Verbs that use only infinitives:

- pattern: Jen decided **to go** to the meeting.

afford	decide	manage	turn out
agree	demand	mean	undertake
aim	desire	offer	vow
arrange	expect	plan	wish
attempt	fail	prepare	want
ask	guarantee	promise	
can't wait	happen	prove	
choose	hope	refuse	
claim	hesitate	seem	
consent	learn	tend	