

Gerunds and Infinitives

Introduction: Some verbs are always followed by gerunds (verbal nouns), some verbs are followed by infinitives, and some verbs can be followed by either gerund or infinitive.

Common Mistakes

Go is followed by a gerund in some expressions about activities. Notice there is no to between go and the gerund.

Error: Did you go to shopping?

Correct: Did you go shopping?

The words like, and love can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive, but would like and would love must be followed by infinitives.

Error: I would like going to the movies with you.

Correct: I would like to go to the movies with you.

Discussion

Gerunds

What do you enjoy doing with your friends?

What do you put off doing?

What are you considering doing next Christmas?

Infinitives (to verb)

What do you sometimes forget to do?

Where would you like to go for your honeymoon?

What do you plan to do after class?

Gerunds or Infinitives

What do you like to do in your free time?

What do you hate doing?

What will you continue to do all your life?

Gerunds, Infinitives, or Both

Example: I can't wait (come) to come here again.

1. Some students hate (leave) _____ school.
2. Please stop (hit) _____ me.
3. I enjoy (eat) _____ Indian food.
4. I haven't finished (do) _____ my work.
5. My uncle likes (wear) _____ women's clothes.
6. I need (study) _____ Chinese every day.
7. I forgot (give) _____ money to my mother.
8. I plan (go) _____ to Canada to look for a wife.
9. We're considering (move) _____ to Sydney.
10. I want (go) _____ Canada now.
11. We left when the teacher started (cry) _____ .
12. My mother keeps on (talk) _____ about money.
13. Don't put off (do) _____ your daily exercise.
14. I always pretend (sleep) _____ when I get a seat on the bus or train.
15. Can we continue (do) _____ your homework.
16. I promise (return) _____ your wife tomorrow.
17. I would like (shine) _____ the teacher's shoes.
18. I quit (chew) _____ betel nut last year.