

Outline

- I. Introduction
- II. Three Functions
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 2. Intransitive
 3. Linking/Stative and Sensory
- IV. Regular and Irregular
- V. Weak and Strong
- VI. Some Confusing Verbs
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- VIII. Inversions
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I. Introduction

Verb – integral part

No blood, no life;

No verb, no sentence!

II. Three Functions

- i. Expresses action
He plays tennis.
- ii. Helps other verbs
Tennis is played (by him).
- iii. Shows existence/state of being
 - a. Lahore is worth seeing.
 - b. She seemed happy.

III. Thus, there are three main categories:

1. Action Verbs

2. Helping or Auxiliary Verbs

3. Stative or Linking Verbs

- **Auxiliaries/Helping verbs** are used to make interrogatives, negatives, different tenses and aspects and active and passive voice.

- i. He does not play tennis.
- ii. She was reading a book.
- iii. I have done my task.
- iv. Breakfast is taken at 8:00 am.

- **Sensory Verbs:** See, hear, feel, taste, smell

- **Transitive verbs** express an action that transfers from the doer to the receiver of the action. They need a direct object.

- i. He killed a snake.
- ii. She is raising money for charity.

- **Intransitive verbs** express an action that does not transfer from the doer to the receiver. They do not need any direct object.

- i. She is smiling.
- ii. They rise early in the morning.

- **Compare:**

Intransitive

Transitive

- | | |
|---|--|
| i. Birds fly in the air. | The boys are flying kites. |
| ii. They are playing inside. | They are playing cricket. |
| iii. She broke the silence by coughing. | Let's break for tea. The clouds broke. |

- **Action verbs** are modified by *adverbs* whereas *linking/stative* and *sensory verbs* are modified by *adjectives*.

- i. He acted quickly to save himself.
- ii. She walks gracefully.

- iii. The child felt hungry.
- iv. Feel the pulse of the patient carefully.
- v. He often looks angry.
- vi. She looked at him angrily.
- vii. Flowers smell sweet.
- viii. I bent down to smell the flowers properly.
- ix. The mango tasted sour.
- x. The water tasted strongly of chemicals.

IV. Regular and Irregular Verbs

- Regular verbs make their past tense (verb 2nd form) and past participle (verb 3rd form) by adding *d* or *ed* to the present tense (verb 1st form).

Laugh	Laughed	Laughed
Smile	Smiled	Smiled
Work	Worked	Worked

- Irregular verbs do not take *d* or *ed* to make their past tense and past participle---they do it in some other way.

Go	Went	Gone
Fight	Fought	Fought
Cut	Cut	Cut
Beat	Beat	Beaten
Bite	Bit	Bitten
Swing	Swung	Swung
Ring	Rang	Rung

V. Weak and Strong Verbs

- Regular verbs are generally named weak verbs as they take *d* or *ed* to form past and past participle.

Like	Liked	Liked
------	-------	-------

- Irregular verbs are called strong verbs as they take nothing to do so.

Put

Put

Put

Write

Wrote

Written

VI. Some Confusing Verbs

- Lie (to say or write something that you know is not true) *Intransitive*

Lied

Lied

Lied

She lied about her age.

- Lie (to be or put yourself in a flat position) *Intransitive*

Lie

Lay

Lain

i. Snow was lying thick on the ground.

ii. The valley lay below us.

- Lay Laid Laid *Transitive*

(to put sb/sth gently in a particular position; produce eggs from the body; place)

i. She laid the baby down gently on the bed.

ii. The cuckoo lays its eggs in other birds' nests.

iii. Our teacher lays great stress on good spelling.

- Rise Rose Risen *Intransitive*

i. Smoke was rising from the chimney.

ii. The teacher asked him to rise to his feet.

- Raise Raised Raised *Transitive*

i. He raised a hand in greeting.

ii. The book raises many important questions.

- Fall Fell Fallen *Intransitive*

i. He slipped on the ice and fell.

7. Fell Felled Felled *Transitive*

- i. He felled his opponent with a single blow.

8. Hang Hanged Hanged

- i. The culprit hanged himself and committed suicide. *Transitive*

- ii. At that time, you could hang for stealing. *Intransitive*

9. Hang Hung Hung

- i. He hung his coat on the hook. *Transitive*

- ii. He had lost weight and the suit hung loosely on him. *Intransitive*

10. Find Found Found

- i. Let's try to find a solution to the problem. *Transitive*

- ii. The jury found him guilty. *Transitive*

- iii. The court found in her favour. *Intransitive*

11. Found Founded Founded *Transitive*

- i. He founded the company two years ago.

12. Refuse, Deny and Decline

- i. He often refuses to help me.

- ii. He denied that he had stolen the phone.

- iii. Do not decline this golden offer.

VII. Reflexive Verbs

Present, Absent, Avail, Acquit, *Enjoy

- i. She presented herself in the court.

- ii. He often absents himself from the class.

- iii. Avail yourself of this golden offer.

VIII. Inversions (changing the order or position: placement of a verb before its subject)

Verbs are put directly before the subject of a clause in different structures.

i. After Negative Expressions

If a negative adverb or adverbial expression is put at the beginning of a clause for emphasis, it is usually followed by **verb + subject**.

- a. At no time was the President aware of what was happening.
- b. Under no circumstances can we cash cheques.
- c. Never will we disappoint our students.
- d. Not a single word did he say.

ii. After Restrictive Expressions

Inversion is also used after restrictive words like **Hardly, Scarcely, Barely, Not only, No sooner, Never, Seldom, Rarely, Little**, and after **Only + time expression**.

- a. Hardly had I arrived when trouble started.
(*I had hardly arrived when trouble started.)
- b. Scarcely had they reached home when the rain started.
- c. Not only did we lose our money but we were also beaten.
- d. Not only is she brainy but she is also diligent.
- e. No sooner did she see a lizard than she screamed.
- f. Never before was Cordova so prosperous, Andalusia so rich and the state so triumphant.
- g. Seldom have I seen such a remarkable creature.

h. Rarely is she seen in public nowadays.

i. Little did he realize the danger he faced.

j. Only then did I understand what he meant.

iii. In Conditional Clauses

In conditional clauses, a verb can be put before the subject instead of using if.

a. Were I you, I would forgive him.

b. Had we not missed the bus, we would have met an accident.

X. Exercise

- Correct the following if incorrect. Justify your answers as well.

1. The college lays in the heart of the city.
2. He raises his voice when he is angry.
3. She has borne him three sons.
4. The camel man stroke him a blow which fell him down like a log.
5. It is so cold that even the river has freezed.
6. He bade Rs. 50,000 for the painting.
7. He bade me good morning.
8. Students are adviced to keep silence in the library.
9. He vowed to avenge himself his father's murder.
10. He later avenged himself on his wife's killer.
11. The pizza smells well.
12. She vowed to revenge her brother's murder.

13. Avail this golden opportunity.
14. No sooner I entered the office when it started raining.
15. Barely he had arrived when the meeting started.
16. Wait! I will reach there in no time.
17. He often absents from meetings.
18. I seeked advice from my teacher.
19. A set of keys swang from her belt.
20. Hailstones beated against the window.
21. Rarely he spoke about himself.
22. He often lies on the floor.
23. She flang the letter down onto the table.
24. They enjoyed during the game.
25. The children clung together in fear.
26. He acquitted brilliant in the exams.
27. She denied to help me.
28. He refused that he had stolen the phone.
29. Who found the Mughal Empire?
30. We feel hunger when we return from college.

Answer Key

1. The college ~~lays~~ *lies* in the heart of the city.
2. He raises his voice when he is angry. *Correct*
3. She has borne him three sons. *Correct*
4. The camel man ~~stroke~~ *struck* him a blow which ~~fell~~ *felled* him down like a log.
5. It is so cold that even the river has ~~freezed~~ *frozen*.
6. He bade ~~bid~~ Rs. 50,000 for the painting.
7. He bade me good morning. *Correct*
8. Students are ~~advieed~~ *advised* to keep ~~silenee~~ *silent* in the library.
9. He vowed to avenge *himself* his father's murder.
10. He later avenged himself on his wife's killer. *Correct*
11. The pizza smells ~~well~~ *good*.
12. She vowed to ~~revenge~~ *avenge* her brother's murder.
13. Avail *yourself of* this golden opportunity.
14. No sooner I-entereed *did I enter* the office when *than* it started raining.
15. Barely he had ~~had~~ *he* arrived when the meeting started.
16. Wait! I will reach *arrive* there in no time.

17. He often absents *himself* from meetings.
18. I seeked *sought* advice from my teacher.
19. A set of keys swang *swung* from her belt.
20. Hailstones beated *beat* against the window.
21. Rarely he-spoke *did he speak* about himself.
22. He often lies on the floor. *Correct*
23. She flang *flung* the letter down onto the table.
24. They enjoyed during the game.
25. The children clung together in fear. *Correct*
26. He acquitted *himself* brilliant *brilliantly* in the exams.
27. She denied *refused* to help me.
28. He refused *denied* that he had stolen the phone.
29. Who found *founded* the Mughal Empire?
30. We feel hunger *hungry* when we return from college.



Causative Verbs

Examples:

1. We usually *let* the children stay up late on Saturdays.
2. I must *get* my watch repaired.
3. I cannot *get* that child to go to bed.
4. The manager *had* everybody fill out a form.
5. If you do not get out of my house, I shall *have* you arrested.
6. He often *makes* her cry.
7. She was *made* to repeat her story.
8. He *helped* me (to) find my ring.

Outline

I. Introduction

II. Kinds

1. Let
2. Get
3. Have
4. Make
5. Help

III. Exercise

I. Introduction

- Causative verbs show that someone or something causes something to happen.
- They show the reason that something happened.
- Causatives indicate something the subject.
- Causative verbs are *let*, *make*, *have*, *get* and *help*.

1. Let – allow somebody/something to happen

Let Somebody/Something Do Something

Formula: (Subject). Let. Somebody/Something (Objective Case). Zero Infinitive (to + Verb 1). Something

- i. He lets his little sister watch TV in his room.
- ii. Let me do my task.
- iii. She let the kids stay up past midnight.
- iv. My friends let me borrow their car.
- v. Let them splash around in the pool for a while.

- **No Passive**

2. A. Get somebody to do something

Formula A: Subject. Get. Somebody. To + Verb 1. Something

B. Get somebody/something done

Formula B: Subject. Get. Somebody/Something. Verb 3 (Past Participle)

- i. I got the waiter to bring us the menu.
I got the menu brought to us.
- ii. He will get the technician to repair his computer.
He will get his computer repaired (by the technician).
- iii. She got the sweeper to clean her house before the party.
She got her house cleaned before the party.
- iv. how can we get all the workers to arrive on time?
- v. She often gets her hair washed.
- vi. I will get the painter to paint my car.
- vii. I will get my car painted.
- viii. She got her hair trimmed.

3. A. **Have somebody do something**

Formula A: Subject. Have. Somebody. Zero Infinitive (~~To~~ + Verb 1)

B. **Have somebody/something done**

Formula B: Subject. Have. Somebody/Something. Verb 3 (Past Participle)

This means that someone does something for you because you pay or ask somebody to do it, and you also say who the person is.

i. I have my assistant call the clients with the detail.

I have the clients called with the detail.

ii. The teacher had us write a test.

The teacher had a test written.

iii. Did you have the electrician repair your TV?

Did you have your TV repaired?

iv. I will have my brother send you the forms.

I will have the forms sent.

v. She had the rascal beaten.

vi. I have my hair washed every Saturday.

vii. She had her teeth checked.

viii. He had the leak in the room fixed.

4. A. **Make -- force somebody to do something**

Formula A: Subject. Make. Somebody/Something. Zero Infinitive (~~to~~ + Verb 1)

The teacher makes her students write an essay.

B. **Passive Structure**

Formula B: Subject. Helping Verb. Made. Full Infinitive (to + Verb 1)

Her students are made to write an essay.

Examples:

- i. The rider makes his horse run fast.
The horse is made to run fast.
- ii. Our hounds made the rabbits circle.
The rabbits were made to circle.
- iii. The examiner will make the students sit in line.
The students will be made to sit in line.
- iv. The school makes students follow a strict dress code.
Students are made to follow a strict dress code.

5. **Help – help somebody (to) do something**

Formula: Subject. Help. Somebody. (to). Verb 1

Examples:

- i. Milk helps us (to) be strong.
- ii. Could you help me (to) carry my bags.
- iii. Can computer games help kids (to) learn to read?
- iv. She helped her son (to) do his homework.
- v. Reading before bed helps me (to) relax.

Exercise

PTO

III. Exercise

- Correct the following if incorrect. Justify your answers as well.

1. I got my phone to repair.
2. I will have my secretary called you to reschedule the appointment.
3. I had my house painted last Sunday.
4. Will his father let him to adopt a child?
5. I had him type a letter.
6. He helped me carrying the box.
7. I got him try a new shop.
8. I will have my hair to cut.
9. This dress makes me to look fat.
10. I am always made to laugh by her.

Answer Key

PTO

iv. I acquitted myself well in the exam.

v. a. Enjoy yourselves.

b. ~~Enjoy during the vacation.~~

Enjoy yourselves during the vacation.

c. Enjoy the vacation.

- Avenge

- Avenge something

- i. He promised to avenge his father's death.

- ii. They were out to avenge last season's defeat.

- iii. In time, perhaps, these deaths will be avenged.

- Avenge yourself on somebody

- i. She was determined to avenge herself on the man who had killed her father.

- ii. They began to avenge themselves on their relatives on their relatives for the years of suppression.

- Revenge

- Revenge yourself on somebody

- i. Eric wanted to revenge himself on John for his arrogance.

- ii. The terrorist group is still looking to revenge itself on its attackers.

- Be revenged on somebody

- i. He vowed to be revenged on those who had killed his father.

- ii. He was revenged on his wife's killers.

- iii. She vowed to be revenged on them all.

- You cannot revenge something:

- ~~She vowed to revenge her brother's death.~~

Incorrect

Answer Key

1. I got my phone ~~to-repair~~ *repaired*.
2. I will have my secretary ~~called~~ *call* you to reschedule the appointment.
3. I had my house painted last Sunday. *Correct*
4. Will his father let him ~~to~~ adopt a child?
5. I had him type a letter. *Correct*
6. He helped me ~~earrying~~ *carry/to carry* the box.
7. I got him ~~try~~ *to try* a new shop.
8. I will have my hair ~~to-cut~~ *cut*.
9. This dress makes me ~~to~~ look fat.
10. I am always made to laugh by her. *Correct*

Example Sentences of Subjunctive:

1. It is *essential* (that) every child *have* the same educational opportunities.
2. I *recommended* you *move* to another office.
3. I *wish* it *were* Saturday.
4. God *bless* you.
5. It is *important* (that) he *be* present when we sign the papers.
6. Heaven *forbid*.
7. She orders the little girl *as if* she *were* her daughter.
8. I *would rather* she *travelled* by train.
9. *It is (high) time* we *completed* the assignment.
10. If I *were* he, I *would accept* this offer.
11. Work hard *lest* you *(should) fail*.

Outline

- I.** Introduction
- II.** Kinds
 - 1. Present Subjunctive
 - Three Uses
 - 2. Past Subjunctive
 - Five Uses
- III.** Exercise

I. Introduction

- The Subjunctive is a special, relatively rare verb form that expresses:
 - i. Something imagined or desired, the way you want something to be
 - a. If I were he, I would accept this offer.
 - b. He imagined that he were living on the moon.
 - c. It is preferred that he pay by cheque.
 - ii. Wishes
 - a. Would that I were a great scholar!
 - b. I wish I were better at English.
 - iii. Possibilities
 - a. There is a possibility that he be the culprit.
 - b. It sounds as though you had a bad time.
 - iv. Uncertainty, doubtful or non-factual conditions, i.e., unreal situations
 - a. He speaks as if he were mad.
 - b. I doubt whether John would come.
 - c. If only I knew his name.
 - v. Regret, request, demand, proposal
 - a. Her father demanded that she turn off TV.
 - b. It is requested that he not retire.

II. Kinds**A. Present Subjunctive**

- *Present Subjunctive forms use the base form of verbs, i.e., verbs with no ending -- no s/es, d/ed, ing, etc. Examples are *she see, he have, I be, he were, it were, etc.*
- *Present Subjunctive verbs do not show agreement with their subject, e.g.,
 - i. I strongly recommend that he retire.
 - ii. Heaven help us!
 - iii. It is suggested that he not be absent today.

Uses of Present Subjunctive

- The Present Subjunctive occurs
 1. In certain traditional phrases where it expresses some wish or hope; as
 - i. God bless you!
 - ii. Long live Pakistan!
 - iii. Bless you.
 - iv. Heaven forbid. (Hope that something will not happen)
 2. In a noun clause dependent on a verb expressing desire, intention, resolution, demand, suggestion, insistence, urgency, (suggest, recommend, ask, insist, vital, essential, important, necessary, advice, command, order, unthinkable, etc.) etc.; as
 - i. It is recommended (that) she prepare a short speech.
 - ii. It is imperative each student turn in the assignment.
 - iii. It is important/vital (that) she agree on these terms.
 - iv. The president has issued orders the secretary resign next month.
 - v. He made a proposal (that) the company buy more land.
 - vi. It was unthinkable (that) the army not advance rapidly.
- *The same forms are used in both present and past sentences.
- *Do is not used in negative subjunctives.
 - vii. Maya insisted the student seek the aid of tutors.
 - viii. It is desirable he not leave school before eighteen.
 - ix. We ask (that) she not call after 10:00 pm.

- It is/was best/urgent/advised/the advice/requested/proposed/preferred/asked/essential/crucial/suggested (that)...
- 3. Adamant, anxious, determined, eager, keen may take subjunctive forms as well; as
 - i. Tara is anxious that you return soon.
 - ii. They are keen that he not be hurt.
 - iii. We were determined that it remain secret.

B. Past Subjunctive

Uses of Past Subjunctive

- The Past Subjunctive occurs
 - I. After the verb *wish*, to indicate a situation which is unreal or contrary to fact; as
 - i. I wish I were able to type faster. (I am sorry I cannot)
 - ii. She wishes the car belonged to her father.
 - iii. Do you wish (that) you had a better job?
 - iv. I wish you could see through her lies.
- *After *I wish*, *would* can be used to show annoyance:

I wish you would stop shouting at the TV news reader.
- Strange as it may seem, although the words *hope* and *wish* seem to be similar, we do not use the subjunctive with **hope*, e.g.,
 - i. I hope that this computer works.
 - ii. I hope that this computer is working.

2. After *if*, to express improbability or unreality in the present; as
- If I were he, I would not do that. (But I am not he, and never can be)
 - They could buy a new house if they had more rupees.
 - If I had their address, I would invite them to dinner.
 - If the sun did not shine, the whole world would perish.

*(Structure wise: 2nd Conditional - Improbable)

3. After *as if/as though*, to indicate improbability or unreality; as
- He orders her as if she were his wife. (But she is not)
 - She walked as though she got injured. (But she is not)
 - They were happy as if they had won the game. (But they did not)
 - It sounds as though you had a good time. (uncertainty)
- *If the situation is real or probable, present tense can be used:
 - She looks as if/as though she has heard some great news.

4. After *it is (high) time + subject*, to imply that it is late; as
- It is time we left. (We should have left, but we could not leave)
 - It is high time you applied for the job. (But you have not)
 - It is time they arrived. (It is late and they have not)

5. After *would rather + subject*, to indicate preference; as
- I would rather you went by air. (I prefer you to go by air)
 - They would rather he paid them by cheque.
 - He would rather she stayed indoors.
 - I would rather you did not tell everyone I had lost my job.

III. Exercise

- Correct the following if incorrect. Justify your answers as well.

1. If I were you, I would wear something else.
2. I wish he is kinder to me.
3. We suggest that the government implements a budget cut in July.
4. It is essential that they are heard.
5. I would rather him should work hard.
6. It is crucial that he attends the meeting.
7. William spends money as if he has won a lottery.
8. He intends to study medicine but his mother would rather he studied engineering.
9. She walks as though she is intoxicated.
10. We insisted that he not pay for anything.
11. It is high time you should pay your fees.
12. It is time you go home.
13. He requested that you be present at the meeting.
14. It is important that a car is waiting when we arrive.
15. She acts as if she is the Queen.
16. If only this process was more straightforward.

- Answer Key

1. If I were you, I would wear something else. *Correct*
2. I wish he ~~is~~ *were* kinder to me.
3. We suggest that the government **implements** *implement* a budget cut in July.
4. It is essential that they **are** *be* heard.
5. I would rather ~~him should work~~ *he worked* hard.
6. It is crucial that he **attends** *attend* the meeting.
7. William spends money as if he ~~has won~~ *won* a lottery.
8. He intends to study medicine but his mother would rather he studied engineering.
Correct
9. She walks as though she ~~is~~ *were* intoxicated.
10. We insisted that he not pay for anything. *Correct*
11. It is high time you **should pay** *paid* your fees.
12. It is time you **go** *went* home.
13. He requested that you be present at the meeting. *Correct*
14. It is important that a car ~~is~~ *be* waiting when we arrive.
15. She acts as if she ~~is~~ *were* the Queen.
16. If only this process ~~was~~ *were* more straightforward.

I. Gerunds and Infinitives

A *gerund* is a verb form that ends in “-ing” and is used as a noun (walking, traveling, voting). A full *infinitive* is the base form of a verb preceded by “to” (to walk, to travel, to vote); a *zero or a bare infinitive* is also the base form of a verb but not preceded by “to” (walk, travel, vote). Gerunds and infinitives can function as the subject of a sentence or the object of a verb.

II. Using Gerunds and Infinitives

In idiomatic English, certain verbs are followed only by a gerund, certain verbs by an infinitive, and certain verbs by either a gerund or an infinitive.

A. Common Verbs Followed Only by a Gerund

1. admit He admitted stealing the money.
2. advise She advises waiting until tomorrow.
3. anticipate I anticipate having a good time on vacation.
4. appreciate I appreciate hearing from you.
5. avoid He avoided answering my questions.
6. complete She finally completed writing her term paper.
7. consider I will consider going with you.
8. delay He delayed leaving for school.
9. deny She denied knowing anything about it.
10. discuss They discussed opening a new business.
11. enjoy We enjoyed visiting the museum.
12. escape The team escaped losing the final game.
13. fancy I fancy dining at a restaurant tonight.

Verb 4 - Using Gerunds and Infinitives

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 14. finish | She finished studying at about ten. |
| 15. imagine | We imagined returning the next summer. |
| 16. involve | The job involves travelling to Japan thrice a year. |
| 17. keep | I keep hoping she will come. |
| 18. mention | She mentioned going to a movie. |
| 19. mind | Would you mind helping me? |
| 20. miss | I miss being with my family. |
| 21. postpone | Let's postpone leaving until tomorrow. |
| 22. practice | The athlete practiced throwing the ball. |
| 23. quit | He quit trying to solve the problem. |
| 24. recall | I don't recall meeting him before. |
| 25. recommend | She recommended seeing that play. |
| 26. resist | I could not resist eating dessert. |
| 27. risk | She risked losing everything. |
| 28. suggest | She suggested going to a movie. |
| 29. tolerate | He won't tolerate cheating during an examination. |

B. Common Fixed Expressions Followed Only by a Gerund

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Look forward to | I am looking forward to receiving my result. |
| 2. With a view to | With a view to meeting his cousins, he went to Karachi. |
| 3. It's no use | It's no use leaving a message; he never calls back anyway. |
| 4. Can't stand | I can't stand working with people who always show up late. |
| 5. To be worth | It's not worth spending so much money. |

6. Feel like Do you feel like watching a horror movie or a comedy?
 7. Be/Get used to She is used to rising early.
 8. Be given to He was given to smoking.
 9. Cannot help (+ gerund): I cannot help laughing at his joke.
- *But: Cannot help but (+ zero infinitive): He could not help but talk loudly.

C. Only Gerunds Are Used after Prepositions

Gerunds can follow a preposition; infinitives cannot. Consider this sentence:

I talked him out *of taking* that job.

Here, the gerund "taking" follows the preposition "of."

Prepositions can follow any word, be it a noun, a pronoun, a verb or an adjective.

A preposition that follows a noun:

- i. Novels about **growing up** are popular among teenagers.
- ii. I have an interest in **becoming** a painter.

A preposition that follows a pronoun:

I forgive you for **not telling** the truth.

A preposition that follows a verb:

- i. She is thinking about **trying** martial arts.
- ii. He looks forward to **meeting** his cousins.

A preposition that follows an adjective:

- i. I am wary of **going** alone.
- ii. My mom is scared of **flying**.

• The Exception

There is one exception. Thankfully, it should be easy to remember! "But" is a short word that connects two clauses of a sentence together. It is called a conjunction. Sometimes, "but" can also play a role of a preposition. When "but" is used as a preposition, it is the same in meaning as "except."

Verb 4 - Using Gerunds and Infinitives

If "but" or "except" are used like this, they need to be followed by an infinitive:

- i. I had no choice but to follow her. (I had to follow her.)
- ii. Mary made no stops on the way except to get gas.
(Mary only stopped to get gas.)
- iii. There is nothing left for me to do but to collect my money and go.
(I only have to collect my money and go)

• **Note:** Take care not to confuse the preposition "to" with an infinitive form, or with an auxiliary form such as have to v, used to, going to.

- i. He went back to writing his paper. [Preposition + Gerund]
- ii. I used to live in Mexico. [Auxiliary + Verb]
- iii. I want to go home. [Verb + Infinitive]

D. Common Verbs Followed Only by an Infinitive

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|------------|---|
| 1. afford | I can't afford to buy it. |
| 2. agree | They agreed to help us. |
| 3. appear | She appears to be tired. |
| 4. arrange | We arranged to meet at ten. |
| 5. ask | He asked to come with us. |
| 6. beg | He begged to come. |
| 7. care | I don't care to see that show. |
| 8. claim | She claims to be a descendent of Karl Marx. |
| 9. consent | She finally consented to marry him. |
| 10. decide | I have decided to leave on Monday. |

Verb 4 - Using Gerunds and Infinitives

English

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| 11. demand | I demand to know who is responsible. |
| 12. deserve | She deserves to win the prize. |
| 13. expect | I expect to enter graduate school in the fall. |
| 14. fail | She failed to return the book to the library. |
| 15. help | He wanted to help with the clean-up. |
| 16. hesitate | Don't hesitate to ask for my help. |
| 17. hope | Jack hopes to arrive next week. |
| 18. learn | He learned to play the piano. |
| 19. manage | She managed to finish her work early. |
| 20. need | I need to have your opinion. |
| 21. offer | They offered to help us. |
| 22. plan | I am planning to have a party. |
| 23. prepare | We prepared to welcome them. |
| 24. pretend | He pretends not to understand. |
| 25. promise | I promise not to be late. |
| 26. refuse | I refuse to believe his story. |
| 27. seem | That cat seems to be friendly. |
| 28. struggle | I struggled to stay awake. |
| 29. swear | She swore to tell the truth. |
| 30. threaten | She threatened to tell my parents. |
| 31. volunteer | He volunteered to help us. |

Verb 4 - Using Gerunds and Infinitives

32. wait I will wait to hear from you.

33. want I want to tell you something.

34. wish She wishes to come with us.

E. Common verbs that can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive without causing a change in meaning

• begin • continue • hate • intend • like • love • prefer

F. Infinitives should be used after many adjectives.

Here are three sample sentences that will help to illustrate this rule:

i. It is not easy to graduate from university.

Graduating from university is not easy.

ii. It is necessary to speak English to work in a hotel.

Speaking English is necessary to work in a hotel.

iii. It is wonderful to have close friends.

Having close friends is wonderful.

- How else do you know if an adjective should be followed by an infinitive? The construction "too + [adjective]" is another way to tell!

i. This dress is too big to wear.

ii. This car is too expensive to buy.

- And the same is true about "[adjective] + enough".

i. My child is not tall enough to ride this rollercoaster.

ii. You are mature enough to understand it.

iii. The course was detailed enough to widen his knowledge base.

C. Only infinitives are used after sentence objects that are nouns or pronouns referring to a person.

"We asked her not to go."

In this sentence, "we" is the subject, "asked" is the verb and "her" is the objective form of the pronoun "she." You must use an infinitive ("to go"), never a gerund, after direct and indirect objects referring to people.

To remember this rule, you will have to study verbs that take an object and an infinitive. Start with these examples. The objects (nouns and pronouns) are underlined. Notice how the underlined objects are all followed by infinitives.

- i. ask: Can I ask you to help me with something?
- ii. expect: I never expected him to become famous.
- iii. hire (give a job to someone): Did the company hire you just to sit in your office?
- iv. invite: I invited a friend to attend the ceremony.
- v. order: She ordered the child to stay at home.
- vi. remind: Please remind me to wash the dishes.
- vii. require: The test required him to concentrate fully.
- viii. teach: That will teach you to follow the rules!
- ix. tell: Who told you to come here?
- x. urge: They urged me to continue my research.
- xi. warn: I am warning you not to do this!

II. Verbs Followed by a Gerund or an Infinitive with a Significant Change in Meaning

Meaning

1. Remember

i. Remember + gerund

This is when you remember something that has happened in the past. You have a memory of it, like being able to see a movie of it in your head.

a. I remember going to the beach when I was a child.

(= I have a memory of going to the beach).

b. He remembers closing the door.

(= He has a memory of closing the door).

ii. Remember + to + infinitive

This is when you think of something that you need to do. (And usually, you then do the thing).

a. I remembered to buy milk.

(= I was walking home and the idea that I needed milk came into my head, so I bought some).

b. She remembered to send a card to her grandmother.

2. Forget

i. Forget + gerund

This is the opposite of remember + gerund. It is when you forget about a memory, something that you've done in the past.

a. Have we really studied this topic before? I forget reading about it.

b. I will never forget watching my first horror movie. (I was so scared that I could not sleep for weeks)

ii. Forget + to + infinitive

This is the opposite of remember + to + infinitive. It's when you want to do something, but you forget about it.

- a. I forgot to call my mother. (= I wanted to call my mother, but when it was a good time to call her, I forgot. I was thinking about something else, and the idea to call my mother didn't come into my head).
- b. She keeps forgetting to bring his book back.
- c. Don't forget to watch the news tonight. (I was interviewed on the main street today)

3. Try

i. Try + gerund

This is when you do something as an experiment. The thing you do is not difficult, but you want to see if doing it will have the result that you want.

- a. I wanted to stop smoking, so I tried using nicotine patches.
(- Using nicotine patches was easy, but I wanted to know if it would help me stop smoking).
- b. She tried giving up chocolate, but it didn't help her lose weight.
(It was easy for her to give up chocolate. She gave it up to see if it would help her lose weight, but it didn't).

ii. Try + to + infinitive

This is when the thing you do itself is difficult. In the present tense or future tense, this means you might not succeed in doing it. In the past tense, it means that you made an effort to do the thing, but you did not succeed.

- a. I'll try to carry the suitcase, but it looks too heavy for me.
- b. She tried to catch the bus, but she couldn't run fast enough.

Look at the difference:

- a. I tried giving up chocolate (it was no problem to stop eating chocolate) but it didn't make me feel healthier.
- b. I tried to give up chocolate, but it was too hard. I always ate some when my friends offered it to me.
- c. It was too hot in the room. I tried opening the window (it was easy to open the window). It didn't help though, because it was very hot outside too.
- d. I tried to open the window, but I couldn't because it was stuck.

4. Stop

i. Stop + gerund

When we stop doing something it means the verb in the gerund is the thing that we stop. It can mean 'stop forever' or 'stop at that moment'.

- a. I wish you would stop biting your nails; it is gross.
- b. My grandmother stopped driving when she was 85.
- c. My boss came into the room, so I stopped browsing the internet.
- d. There was a fire alarm, so I stopped eating and went outside.

ii. Stop + to + infinitive

In this case, we pause or leave one action in order to do another.

- a. I stopped to eat lunch. (I stopped something else, maybe working or studying, because I wanted to eat lunch.
- b. She was shopping and she stopped to get a cup of coffee.
- c. Stop to buy bread from the supermarket.

Look at the difference:

- d. I stopped smoking. (I gave up cigarettes OR I threw away my cigarette at that moment).
- e. I stopped to smoke. (I stopped doing something else because I wanted to have a cigarette).
- f. I worked all day; I did not even stop to eat lunch.

5. Regret

i. Regret + gerund

This is when you are sorry about something you did in the past and you wish you hadn't done it.

- a. I regret going to bed so late. I'm really tired today.
- b. She regrets leaving school when she was sixteen. She wishes that she had studied more and then gone to university.
- c. I regret telling him the secret; she has made it an open secret.

ii. Regret + to + infinitive

We use this construction when we are giving someone bad news, in quite a formal way. The verb is almost always something like 'say' or 'tell' or 'inform'.

- a. I regret to tell you that the train has been delayed.
- b. The company regrets to inform employees that the London office will close next year.

6. Mean

i. Mean + gerund

This is used to talk about what the result or response of something is.

- a. Make sure you bring your jacket, or it will mean getting really wet and cold.
- b. Visiting my sister in London means spending eight hours on a plane.

ii. Mean + to + infinitive

This is used when you intend or plan to do something. When used in the past tense, it is especially for excuses.

- a. I meant to call you last night, but I totally forgot!
- b. She meant to put sugar in your coffee, but she accidentally added salt.