Gerunds

Worksheet 1: Gerund or Infinitive?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: Three Groups

Group	Verbs	Example
Always gerund	enjoy, finish, avoid, miss, mind, suggest, keep, give up, can't stand, deny, admit, consider, imagine, practise, risk, delay	She **enjoys swimming**. He **admitted stealing** the money.
Always infinitive	want, need, hope, plan, decide, expect, refuse, manage, seem, appear, afford, agree, offer, promise, choose, fail, tend, wish	She **wants to go**. He **managed to escape**.
Both (same meaning)	start, begin, like, love, hate, prefer, continue, intend, attempt, can't bear	She **started crying**. / She **started to cry**.

Part A – Gerund or Infinitive?

> **Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.**

1. He admitted _____ the email without reading it. *(send)*
2. She hopes _____ medicine at university. *(study)*
3. Do you fancy _____ out for dinner tonight? *(go)*
4. They decided _____ the meeting until next week. *(postpone)*
5. I can't afford _____ a new car right now. *(buy)*
6. Have you considered _____ abroad for a while? *(work)*
7. She managed _____ the project on time despite everything. *(finish)*
8. He denied _____ the money from the till. *(take)*
9. I promise _____ late again. *(not / be)*
10. She risks _____ her job if she keeps arriving late. *(lose)*

Part B – Both Possible?

> **For each sentence, write the gerund form AND the infinitive form if both are possible. If only one is correct, cross out the wrong option.**

#	Sentence stem	Gerund	Infinitive
1	She started _____ piano at the age of five.		
2	I enjoy _____ new places.		
3	He decided _____ earlier in the morning.		
4	They love _____ to classical music.		
5	We considered _____ the event.		
6	She continued _____ despite the noise.		

(Verb: 1 play, 2 visit, 3 get up, 4 listen, 5 cancel, 6 work)

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Verbs with Different Meanings

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: When the Form Changes the Meaning

Some verbs take **both** gerund and infinitive, but with a **different meaning**. These must be learned carefully.

Verb	+ Gerund	+ Infinitive (to)
stop	*stop* + *-ing* = quit an activity She **stopped smoking**. (she no longer smokes)	*stop* + *to-inf* = pause in order to do something She **stopped to smoke**. (she paused and lit a cigarette)
remember	*remember* + *-ing* = recall a past event I **remember locking** the door. (I recall doing it)	*remember* + *to-inf* = not forget to do something **Remember to lock** the door. (don't forget — future action)
forget	*forget* + *-ing* = fail to recall a past event I'll never **forget meeting** her. (I won't lose that memory)	*forget* + *to-inf* = fail to do something He **forgot to buy** milk. (he didn't do it)
try	*try* + *-ing* = experiment to see if it works **Try adding** more salt. (experiment)	*try* + *to-inf* = make an effort She **tried to lift** the box. (she made an attempt)
regret	*regret* + *-ing* = feel sorry about a past action I **regret saying** that. (I wish I hadn't)	*regret* + *to-inf* = formal announcement of bad news We **regret to inform** you… (formal; present or future)
mean	*mean* + *-ing* = involve / result in This **means working** harder. (it will require)	*mean* + *to-inf* = intend I **meant to call** you. (I intended to)

Part A – Explain the Difference

> **Explain what each sentence means.**

1. **a.** He stopped *drinking* coffee.

   _____

   b. He stopped *to drink* coffee.

   _____

2. **a.** She remembered *posting* the letter.

   _____

   b. She remembered *to post* the letter.

   _____

3. **a.** I'll never forget *seeing* that film.

   b. Don't forget *to see* the dentist.

Part B – Choose the Right Form

> **Circle the correct form. The context clue in brackets will help.**

1. I tried (opening / to open) the jar but it was too tight. *(I made an effort)*
2. Try (restarting / to restart) the computer and see if it helps. *(experiment)*
3. She regrets (not studying / not to study) harder at school. *(past action)*
4. We regret (telling / to tell) you that your application was unsuccessful. *(formal announcement)*
5. Accepting this job means (moving / to move) to another city. *(result/involve)*
6. I meant (calling / to call) you yesterday but I forgot. *(intention)*

Part C – Write Your Own

> **Write two sentences for each verb: one with the gerund and one with the infinitive. Show the meaning difference clearly.**

1. *remember:*

2. *stop:*

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Gerund as Subject and Complement

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: Three Positions in the Sentence

Position	Structure	Example
Subject	Gerund + verb phrase	**Running every day** changed his life.
Subject complement *(after a linking verb)*	Subject + be + gerund	His biggest problem is **avoiding conflict**. My favourite activity is **reading**.
Object	Verb + gerund	She enjoys **painting**.

A gerund **phrase** — a gerund with its own object and/or adverbs — behaves exactly like a single gerund. Compare:
Swimming is fun. *Swimming in cold water every morning* is fun.
Both are subjects; both need a singular verb.

Part A – Identify the Function

Underline the gerund or gerund phrase. Write S (subject), SC (subject complement) or O (object).

1. Her main goal is becoming a surgeon. _____
2. Avoiding eye contact can seem rude in some cultures. _____
3. I enjoy cooking for large groups of people. _____
4. His worst habit is leaving dishes in the sink. _____
5. Getting enough sleep every night is essential for concentration. _____
6. She dislikes being the centre of attention. _____

Part B – Transform

Rewrite each sentence using a gerund in the position shown.

1. "To arrive late to meetings is unprofessional." → Use gerund as **subject**.

   _____

2. "Her ambition is to become a doctor." → Use gerund as **subject complement**.

   _____

3. "He loves it when he can help people." → Use gerund as **object**.

   _____

4. "It is challenging to learn a new skill as an adult." → Use gerund as **subject**.

Part C – Gerund Phrases in Context

> **Expand each simple gerund into a full gerund phrase. Keep the same sentence structure.**

1. *Swimming* is good for you. → _____ is good for you.
2. He avoids *travelling*. → He avoids _____.
3. *Cooking* takes time. → _____ takes time.
4. She loves *reading*. → She loves _____.

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Analysis, Editing and Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Part A – Text Analysis

Giving up a long-term habit is rarely as simple as just deciding to stop. Many people try to quit smoking, for example, only to find themselves lighting up again within days. Psychologists suggest considering why the habit started in the first place. They also recommend keeping a diary to track progress, and avoiding situations where the urge is strongest. Some people find it helps to remember having felt better in the past — before the habit took hold. The key is to keep trying without losing hope.

Questions

1. Find every gerund in the text. List them and state the function of each: subject (S), object (O) or object of preposition (OP).

2. Find an example of a verb followed by a gerund where the gerund could be replaced by an infinitive *without changing the meaning*.

3. The text uses *stop* + infinitive in "only to find themselves…". Compare this with *stop* + gerund. What is the difference here?

Part B – Editing

> **This paragraph has six gerund/infinitive errors. Find and correct them.**

I decided taking a year off after university. I remember to feel completely exhausted by the end of my finals. My plan is to travelling in South America, and I'm really looking forward to explore new places. I'm not used to live out of a suitcase, but I'm trying getting used to it. My biggest challenge will be avoid spending too much money!

#	Error	Correction
1		
2		
3		
4		

5		
6		

Part C – Writing

Write a paragraph of **120–150 words** on one of the topics below. Use at least: two different *verb + gerund* patterns; one *verb + infinitive*; one *preposition + gerund*; one gerund as **subject**.

Topic A: Describe a habit you have tried to change. **Topic B:** Describe a skill you are learning or want to learn.

Topic: ___ A ___ B Word count: _____

Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B1 Level, Gerunds

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 sending · 2 to study · 3 going · 4 to postpone · 5 to buy · 6 working · 7 to finish · 8 taking · 9 not to be · 10 losing

> *Item 3: fancy (BrE informal) always takes the gerund — worth flagging for students who haven't met it.*
> *Item 9: negative infinitive = not to be (infinitive), not to not be (informal, increasingly accepted).*

Worksheet 1 – Part B

#	Gerund	Infinitive
1	playing (✓)	to play (✓) — both OK with *start*
2	visiting (✓)	to visit (✗) — *enjoy* = gerund only
3	getting up (✗)	to get up (✓) — *decide* = infinitive only
4	listening (✓)	to listen (✓) — both OK with *love*
5	cancelling (✓)	to cancel (✗) — *consider* = gerund only
6	working (✓)	to work (✓) — both OK with *continue*

Worksheet 2 – Part A

#	Answer
1a	He quit drinking coffee — he no longer drinks it.
1b	He paused what he was doing in order to drink coffee.
2a	She recalls the act of posting it — she has a memory of doing it.
2b	She didn't forget — she did post the letter (future/habitual action not forgotten).
3a	She retains the memory of seeing it — it was a memorable experience.
3b	Don't fail to make an appointment with the dentist (future reminder).

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 to open · 2 restarting · 3 not studying · 4 to tell · 5 moving · 6 to call

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 becoming a surgeon — SC · 2 Avoiding eye contact — S · 3 cooking for large groups of people — O · 4 leaving dishes in the sink — SC · 5 Getting enough sleep every night — S · 6 being the centre of attention — O

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 Arriving late to meetings is unprofessional. **2** Her ambition is becoming a doctor. **3** He loves helping people. **4** Learning a new skill as an adult is challenging.

Worksheet 4 – Part A

Gerunds and functions: Giving up (S) — deciding (OP: just) — smoking (O: quit) — considering (O: suggest) — keeping a diary (O: recommend) — avoiding (O: recommend) — losing hope (OP: without) — trying (O: keep) — having felt (O: remember) — lighting up (SC / complement of find themselves).

Q2: *suggest considering* — 'suggest thinking about' would be equivalent; or *recommend keeping* — 'advise keeping' uses different verb. Accept any well-argued answer.

Q3: "Only to find themselves lighting up" — here *stop* + infinitive means pause with a consequence; it is not the pause-in-order-to pattern but an infinitive of result. This is a subtler use worth discussing at B1+.

Worksheet 4 – Part B

#	Error	Correction
1	decided taking	**decided to take**
2	remember to feel	**remember feeling** ***(past recall)***
3	to travelling	**travelling** ***(is = linking; SC takes gerund or noun)***
4	forward to explore	**forward to exploring**
5	not used to live	**not used to living**
6	trying getting	**trying to get** ***(try + inf = effort)***

> *Item 7 could also flag "avoid spending" — here it is correct (avoid + gerund). Reward students who notice it is correct and explain why.*

Worksheet 4 – Part C: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Gerund patterns	Two or more distinct verb + gerund patterns used correctly	0–5
Meaning distinction	Any stop/remember/try etc. pair handled accurately if used	0–4
Infinitive contrast	At least one correct verb + infinitive included	0–3
Gerund as subject	At least one gerund or gerund phrase as subject	0–3
Task & length	120–150 words; coherent and on-topic	0–3