

## GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES: FIVE SIMPLE RULES

**A: These verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive:**

begin, continue, like, hate, love, prefer, start, etc.

*They began dancing and singing.*

*We like to cook dinner but hate to clean the apartment.*

**B: These verbs must be followed by a gerund:**

appreciate, avoid, dislike, enjoy, keep, miss, quit, etc.

*Do you dislike doing homework or just avoid handing it in?*

*She misses being with her family.*

**C: These verbs must be followed by an infinitive:**

ask, decide, encourage, expect, hope, intend, learn, plan, seem, tell, want, etc.

*He asked her to marry him, and she decided to accept.*

*I was encouraged to work hard at school and planned to attend university.*

**D: These 2 and 3-word verbs must be followed by a gerund:**

accustomed to, believe in, look forward to, put off, take care of, think about, etc.

*We're looking forward to seeing you in September.*

*He's accustomed to working out in the gym and believes in keeping fit.*

**E: These 4 verbs are usually followed by pronoun + the base form of a verb: make, have, let, and help.**

*Adnan makes me like the class and has me enjoy Accounting.*

*Rodrigo let me watch him dance and helped me learn the steps.*

### **H O M E W O R K: "THE TYPE OF WORK I'M BEST AT"**

Tell me what type of work you think you are best at. Write a 10-sentence paragraph. Use some of these choices:

*Helping/ to help people*

*Being/ to be accurate and thorough*



*Working/ to work as part of a team*

*Being/ to be a leader*

*Being/ to be loyal and reliable*

*Being/ to be conscientious*

*Making/ to make decisions  
responsibility*

*Having/ to have lots of*

*Creating/ to create something new*

*Solving/ to solve problems*

*Using/ to use my language skills*

*Making/ to make sure the job is correct*

*Using/ to use my hands*

*Using/ to use systematic procedures*

*Fixing/ to fix things*

**SAMPLE PARAGRAPH: "THE TYPE OF WORK I'M BEST AT"**

The job I liked best was writing cartoon strips for a children's comic paper called *The Beano*, a job I did before I was 20. What I liked most was being creative all day, knowing that young people liked reading our stories. Using my language skills to make something new was very satisfying work. It let me reach an audience of more than 2 million readers. Of course, I didn't have to solve any big problems or fix anything, I didn't have to get dirty in our nice big office, and I didn't have to make important decisions or be anyone's boss. Inside our huge company, I liked working as part of a small team of artists and technicians and following the production systems to publish *The Beano*. After a while, I left that job to make more money, but I never forgot being a small part of the publishing industry in the UK. It made me appreciate having freedom and creativity at work.