

Lesson Plan: Gerunds vs. infinitives

Level: Intermediate (B1–B2)

Time: 60 minutes

Topic: Gerunds and infinitives

Skills: Grammar, speaking, writing

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify the difference between gerunds and infinitives.
- Use common verbs correctly with gerunds or infinitives.
- Construct sentences using gerunds and infinitives appropriately.

Materials

- Whiteboard and markers
- Handouts with exercises
- Flashcards or verb list
- Projector (optional for visual presentation)
- Online quiz (optional for homework or wrap-up)

Warm-Up (10 minutes)

Activity: Verb Brainstorm

- Ask students to brainstorm as many verbs as they can (write on the board).

- Introduce the idea that some verbs are followed by gerunds, others by infinitives.

Presentation (15 minutes)

Explain:

Gerund = verb + -ing (e.g., swimming, reading)

Infinitive = to + base verb (e.g., to swim, to read)

Show Examples:

Verb	Gerund	Infinitive
enjoy	✓ enjoy swimming	✗ enjoy to swim
want	✗ want swimming	✓ want to swim

Rules & Common Verbs:

- **Gerund after:** enjoy, avoid, consider, mind, suggest, etc.
- **Infinitive after:** want, hope, need, decide, plan, promise, etc.
- Some verbs can take both with a change in meaning (e.g., remember, stop).

Practice (20 minutes)

1. Controlled Practice (Gap-Fill Worksheet)

Students complete sentences using the correct form (gerund or infinitive).

2. Pair Work: Sentence Match

Give students slips with verbs and another set with sentences. They match and form correct sentences:

e.g., "enjoy" + "I ____ (go) to the beach" → "I enjoy going to the beach."

Production (10 minutes)

Activity: Personalize It!

Students write 3–5 sentences about themselves using both gerunds and infinitives.

- "I decided to study English."
- "I enjoy listening to music."

Pair-share to practice speaking.

Assessment / Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

Quick quiz to check understanding.

Homework (Optional)

Write a short paragraph (5–7 sentences) about your hobbies or goals using at least 3 gerunds and 3 infinitives.