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## Grammar Reference

### 1. Grammar Reference Part 1: Review of Verb Patterns (Gerund and Infinitive Constructs)

#### Gerund vs. Infinitive Construction

Gerunds and infinitives are verbs that are used as nouns in a sentence. Gerunds are most often the subject or object of a sentence, while infinitives are most often the subject of a sentence.

A gerund is a verb (verb + ing) that is used as a noun. Some verbs can ONLY be followed by a gerund, not an infinitive such as, but not only including: *appreciate, enjoy, give up, keep, put off, and suggest*. However, there are also some verbs that can only be followed by *either* a gerund *or* an infinitive such as, but not including: *begin, bother, continue, hate, prefer, start, and consider*.

Example: **Cooking** is one of my favorite weekend activities.

The hardest part about studying is **starting**.

He always appreciates **sharing** what we are thankful for.

Gerund verb pattern 1: verb + gerund

Example: I **love choosing** my outfits out the night before.

Gerund verb pattern 2: verb + object + preposition + gerund

Example: High prices often **prevent me from buying** stylish clothes.

An infinitive is a base verb preceded by “to” (to + base form) that is used as a noun. Some verbs can ONLY be followed by an infinitive, not a gerund such as, but not only including: *ask, decide, expect, intend, need, refuse, seem, and tend*. However, there are also some verbs that can be followed by *either* a gerund *or* an infinitive such as, but not only including: *begin, bother, continue, hate, prefer, start, and consider*.

Example: I am hoping **to start** Chinese classes soon.  
He has been happy **to help**.  
We decided **to go** our separate ways.

Infinitive verb pattern 1: verb + infinitive

Example: I **tend to choose** stylish clothes over functional ones.

Infinitive verb pattern 2: verb + object + infinitive

Example: Kpop stars sometimes **inspire me to change** the way I style my hair.

But be careful, these five specific verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive, but the meaning changes significantly: *try, stop, forget, remember, and regret*.

Example: I **tried to read**, but couldn't focus today. (tried, but lacked ability, will do again in the future)  
I **tried reading** in Spanish, but quit when I got to Don Quixote. (tried, but stopped forever)  
He **stopped eating** sugar. (He quit eating sugar forever)  
He **stopped to eat** lok lak. (He took a break from what he was doing to eat lok lak)

## Grammar Reference Part 2: Cleft sentences with *what*

When you want to emphasize information, you can add *what* and a form of *be* to a sentence. This is called a cleft sentence.

Example: A person's sense of style is really important to me.  
> **What's** really important to me is a person's style.  
Shorts and tank tops are not permitted. **What is** allowed are pants and long-sleeved shirts.

For sentences with verbs *other than be*, insert *what* at the beginning of the sentence and a form of *be* after the main verb.

Example: I always notice a person's eyes first.  
> **What** I notice first **is** a person's eyes.  
She didn't dress professionally. **What** she  
dressed like **was** frumpy.