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Grammar Reference

Verbs + Gerunds/Infinitives

Some verbs are followed by a gerund (verb + ing).

Example:

I enjoy **dancing**.
It stopped **raining**.

Here are some of the verbs followed by only a gerund: **stop, enjoy, mind, recommend, finish, suggest, avoid**.

Some verbs are followed by the infinitive.

Example:

I want **to play** tennis.
We need **to practice** every day.
When did you learn **to play the** violin?

Here are some of the verbs followed by only the infinitive: **need, want, learn, promise, decide, plan, hope**.

Notes: Some verbs can be followed by either the infinitive or a gerund: **like, love, hate**.

Example:

I love **reading** romantic novels.
I love **to read** romantic novels.

Spelling rules of the *-ing* form.

Verb	Verb + <i>-ing</i>	Spelling
walk	walking	add <i>-ing</i>
dance	dancing	drop + <i>-ing</i>
run	running	one vowel + one consonant

= double consonant + *-ing*

The use of “and” and “but”

The conjunction “and” shows addition and is used to join two clauses that are similar.

Example:

I called David, **and** we talked for an hour.

The conjunction “but” is used to join two clauses that express opposite ideas.

Example

I also called David, **but** he wasn't home.

Note:

We usually put a comma before “and” and “but” when they join two independent clauses.