Gerunds & Infinitives

Introduction

What Are Gerunds and Infinitives?

Gerund: The **-ing form** of a verb used as a noun.

Infinitive: The base form of a verb, usually preceded by **"to"**.

Gerund

A **gerund** is the **-ing form** of a verb that functions as a noun.

It can act as the subject, object, or complement in a sentence.

Structure: Verb + **-ing**

Example: *Reading* is fun.

When Do We Use Gerunds?

After certain verbs:

Enjoy: *She enjoys reading books.*

Avoid: *He avoids eating junk food.*

After prepositions:

He is interested in learning languages.

She is tired of waiting.

As the subject or object of a sentence:

Subject: *Running is good for health.*

Object: *He loves swimming.*

What is an Infinitive?

An **infinitive** is the **base form** of a verb, preceded by "to."

It can function as a noun, adjective, or adverb in a sentence.

Structure: To + Verb (base form)

Example: I want *to swim.*

When Do We Use Infinitives?

After certain verbs:

Want: *I want to travel.*

Need: *She needs to study.*

To express purpose or intention:

He went to the store to buy groceries.

After adjectives:

It's difficult to understand.

After nouns to show purpose:

I need a pen to write.

Practice Activity

Fill in the blanks with either a gerund or an infinitive:

I enjoy __ (play) tennis on weekends.

She needs __ (finish) her homework.

He stopped __ (talk) when the teacher entered.

I remembered __ (buy) the tickets yesterday.