

## Focus: Gerunds after prepositions, Fixed phrases, Social Functions, Future Plans

In English, if a verb follows a **preposition** (in, on, at, of, with, about, for, etc.), that verb must be in the **Gerund form** (verb + -ing). This applies to fixed phrases, dependent prepositions, and specific social expressions.

### 1. The General Rule

#### *Preposition + Gerund (-ing)*

- I am interested **in learning** English.
- He is good **at playing** chess.

### 2. Specific Verbs and Structures

#### A. Success and Persistence

- **Succeed in + -ing**: Used to express achieving a goal.
  - She **succeeded in finishing** the project on time.
- **Insist on + -ing**: Used when demanding something forcefully.
  - He **insisted on paying** for the meal.

#### B. Social Functions and Reactions

- **Apologize for + -ing**: Saying sorry for an action.
  - I **apologize for being** late.
- **Thank (someone) for + -ing**: Expressing gratitude.
  - Thank you **for coming**.
- **Congratulate (someone) on + -ing**: Expressing praise for an achievement.
  - I **congratulated her on passing** her exam.
- **Disapprove of / Object to + -ing**: Expressing that you do not like an action.
  - My parents **disapprove of smoking**.

#### C. Future Plans and Intentions

- **Think of / Think about + -ing**: Considering a future action (not yet certain).
  - We are **thinking of moving** to Canada.
- **Look forward to + -ing**: Being excited about the future.
  - I **look forward to seeing** you.
- **Decide against + -ing**: Choosing *not* to do something.
  - They **decided against buying** the new car.

### 3. Negatives

To form a negative gerund, place **not** before the gerund.

- He **insisted on not leaving** early.
- I **apologized for not calling** you yesterday.
- We **talked about not going** to the party.

# Practice

---

## Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

**Instruction:** Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb in parentheses. Pay attention to the prepositions before the blanks.

1. After studying hard, she finally succeeded in \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) her driving test.
2. We are thinking of \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) to Japan next summer.
3. I really object to \_\_\_\_\_ (pay) for parking at the shopping center.
4. They decided against \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) the house because it was too small.
5. We are looking forward to \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) your new boss.
6. He insisted on \_\_\_\_\_ (not/wait) for the rest of the group.
7. Please forgive me for \_\_\_\_\_ (not/write) back sooner.
8. I suspect him of \_\_\_\_\_ (not/tell) the whole truth about the accident.
9. We talked about the problem, but we ended up \_\_\_\_\_ (not/do) anything about it.
10. She apologized for \_\_\_\_\_ (not/bring) the documents to the meeting.
11. Are you thinking about \_\_\_\_\_ (change) your career path?
12. Did you thank him for \_\_\_\_\_ (fix) your bicycle?
13. Why do you persist in \_\_\_\_\_ (interrupt) me while I am speaking?
14. Have they accused him of \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) the money?
15. Did you congratulate Tom on \_\_\_\_\_ (get) the promotion?

## **Answer Key**

1. passing
2. traveling / travelling
3. paying
4. buying
5. meeting
6. not waiting
7. not writing
8. not telling
9. not doing
10. not bringing
11. changing
12. fixing
13. interrupting
14. stealing
15. getting