

Gerunds and Phrasal Verbs: Daily Habits and Activities

INTERMEDIATE

Focus: Common verbs (enjoy, mind, suggest), Preference, Negative forms (not -ing), Completion (stop, finish, give up), Delaying (put off), Continuation (go on, carry on), Repetition (keep, keep on)

In English, some verbs and phrasal verbs must be followed by a **Gerund** (verb + -ing). At the B1 level, it is important to know which verbs follow this pattern to talk about hobbies, habits, and daily management.

1. Common Verbs followed by -ing

These verbs focus on the *activity* itself.

- **Enjoy:** *I enjoy reading books in the evening.*
- **Mind:** Used mostly in questions and negatives to mean "be annoyed by" or "object to".
 - *I don't mind waiting for you.*
 - *Do you mind opening the window?*
- **Suggest:** To propose an idea.
 - *He suggested going to the cinema.* (NOT: ~~He suggested to go~~).

2. Verbs of Completion and Stopping

- **Finish:** To complete a task.
 - *Have you finished using the computer?*
- **Stop:** To cease an action.
 - *Please stop talking.*
- **Give up:** A phrasal verb meaning to stop a habit or quit trying (usually permanently).
 - *He gave up smoking last year.*
 - *Don't give up trying!*

3. Phrasal Verbs: Continuation, Delay, and Repetition

In English, if a verb follows a preposition (up, on, off, in, at, etc.), it **MUST** be a gerund (-ing).

- **Put off (Delay):** To decide to do something later.
 - *I put off studying for the exam until the last minute.*
- **Go on / Carry on (Continue):** To continue an activity.
 - *She went on talking for hours.*
 - *Please carry on working quietly.*
- **Keep / Keep on (Repetition):** To do something repeatedly or continuously. *Keep on* emphasizes the persistence.
 - *He keeps interrupting me.*
 - *She kept on asking the same question.*

4. Negative Forms

You can make the main verb negative, or you can make the gerund negative to change the meaning.

- **Negative Main Verb:** *I don't enjoy getting up early.* (I dislike it).
- **Negative Gerund:** *I suggest not going there today.* (My advice is: do not go).

Practice Exercises

Instructions: Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- Pay attention to the main verb tense (Present, Past, etc.) and the form of the second verb (-ing).
- Look for "not" in the cues to form negatives.

1. She _____ (enjoy / paint) landscapes on the weekend.
2. _____ you _____ (mind / help) me with these heavy bags?
3. We _____ (put off / buy) a new car because it was too expensive.
4. Please don't _____ (give up / try); you are making great progress!
5. He _____ (suggest / not / take) the bus because it is very slow today.
6. Why _____ they _____ (keep on / call) you late at night?
7. I finally _____ (finish / write) my report at midnight yesterday.
8. The teacher asked the students to _____ (stop / talk) and listen.
9. _____ she _____ (go on / work) after the baby was born?
10. I really _____ (not / enjoy / cook) when I am tired.
11. You shouldn't _____ (carry on / eat) so much sugar if you want to be healthy.
12. _____ you _____ (finish / use) the bathroom yet?
13. My doctor _____ (suggest / drink) more water every day.
14. He _____ (not / mind / wait) in the queue; he has a book to read.
15. If it starts raining, will we _____ (keep / play) tennis?

Answer Key

1. enjoys painting
2. Do / mind helping **OR** Would / mind helping
3. put off buying (Past Simple implies "put" stays "put", or "have put off" if recent)
4. give up trying
5. suggested not taking **OR** suggests not taking
6. do / keep on calling **OR** did / keep on calling
7. finished writing
8. stop talking
9. Did / go on working
10. don't enjoy cooking
11. carry on eating
12. Have / finished using
13. suggested drinking **OR** suggests drinking
14. doesn't mind waiting **OR** didn't mind waiting
15. keep playing