

TEACHER'S CORNER – DECEMBER 2017
GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES

Gerunds and infinitives are both verbs that function as nouns in a sentence. Gerunds are verbs that end in **-ing** and act as nouns. Their ability to act as nouns means that they can be

Subjects in a sentence:

***Swimming** is healthy.*

Objects of the verb:

*I enjoy **reading** books in my free time.*

Or objects of a preposition:

*I am concerned about **flying** for the first time.*

Meanwhile, infinitives combine **to** with the base form of a verb. Like gerunds, infinitives can also function as nouns, acting as subjects of sentences or objects of a verb. Additionally, infinitives can be found in some other sentence structures.

Some verbs connect with infinitives to form more interesting sentences:

*I hope **to become** an astronaut in the future.*

Other verbs take an object and then an infinitive:

*The teacher reminded us **to bring** our homework tomorrow.*

Infinitive phrases are also used in sentences with *it* as the subject:

*It is valuable **to know** a second or even third language.*

Gerunds and infinitives can be challenging for students because there are many verbs in English, and knowing which verbs can be followed by a gerund, infinitive, or both requires memorization. Adding to



the challenge is the variety of sentence structures in which gerunds and infinitives can be used; even the examples above do not present a complete list of all their uses.

In this month's Teacher's Corner, we will practice gerunds and infinitives to help students on the path to memorizing how each can function in a sentence. Each week students will have the opportunity to practice gerund and infinitive structures through speaking, listening, and reading activities. Along the way, students will discuss interesting jobs, explore the life of professional video gamers, make some plans for their future, and learn more about countries of the world:

Week 1 - Unique Jobs

Week 2 - Professional Video Gamer

Week 3 - Preparing for the Future

Week 4 - Planning a Trip

Week 1 begins the month with an activity discussing unique jobs and using infinitives with *like to*, *want to*, *need to*, and *hope to* structures. In Week 2 students will learn about the lives and careers of professional video gamers while practicing gerunds and infinitives. Week 3 encourages students to think about their futures and make plans using infinitives. Finally, Week 4 concludes this month's Teacher's Corner with an exercise centered on travel and learning about other countries.