

LESSON 129

711 Verb + infinitive or “-ing”

Sometimes in English, a verb is immediately followed by another verb. For example, “I enjoy swimming” or “I want to swim”. The second verb must be either an infinitive with “to” or a gerund (“-ing” form).

Some verbs, such as “promise” and “fail”, are always followed by an infinitive. For example, “The children promised to behave”, or “I failed to notice the sign above the door”.

Other verbs, such as “consider” and “finish”, are always followed by a gerund. For example, “Oliver considered taking the train”, or “Elizabeth finished reading the newspaper”.

There is no rule to tell you which verbs are followed by an infinitive and which ones are followed by a gerund; they need to be learnt one by one.

In English, if a verb is followed immediately by another verb, what form must the second verb be?

In English, if a verb ...,
the second verb must be
either an infinitive or a gerund

Tell me some verbs that are followed by an infinitive, please.

ask, agree, refuse, manage

Tell me some verbs that are followed by a gerund, please.

deny, avoid, practise, miss

Is the verb “promise” followed by an infinitive or a gerund?

The verb “promise” ... an infinitive

Give me an example, please.

He promised to
try harder next time

Is the verb “consider” followed by an infinitive or a gerund?

The verb “consider” ... a gerund

712 Give me an example, please.

You should
consider buying a new car

afraid of

afraid that

afraid to

crash

Why do you suppose some people, especially children, are afraid of the dark? I suppose some ... because they imagine things that are not there

Why are some people more afraid that they might get killed if they travel by plane than by other means of transport? Some people ... because a plane crash is front page news

We can also use "afraid" for an apology. For example, a shopkeeper might say to a customer "I'm afraid we haven't got the size you want, sir".

Give me an example of the word "afraid" used in an apology. I'm afraid I can't help you

whiskers

gap

fence

hedge

A cat's whiskers are more or less the same width as its body. This means that, when it goes hunting for mice and birds, it can use its whiskers to measure the width of a gap in a fence or a hedge to see if it is possible to get through the gap without using force and making a lot of noise.

For what purpose does a cat use its whiskers? A cat uses its whiskers to measure the width of ...

Do you think it's a good idea for students to have a gap year between finishing school and starting university? Yes, I think it's ... ~ No, I don't think it's ...

Why?

713 Do we have to mind the gap between the train and the edge of the platform at some stations? Yes, we have to ...

hall

entrance

town hall

A hall is a large room. For example, a large house may have an entrance hall, and schools have dining halls. A town hall is a large building that is used for local government and public meetings.

What's a hall?

A hall is a large room

Give me some examples of different types of hall, please.

entrance hall etc.

What's a town hall?

A town hall is ...

pool

liquid

indoor

outdoor

indoors

outdoors

out of doors

A pool is a small amount of liquid that has collected in one place. For example, a pool of water, a pool of blood etc. From the word "pool", we also get the name "swimming pool".

What is a pool?

A pool is a small amount of ...

Give me some examples, please.

a pool of water, a pool of blood etc.

What are the advantages of an indoor swimming pool?

The advantages ... are that the water can be heated more easily, and one can swim in it in any kind of weather

714 Which do you prefer: an indoor or an outdoor swimming pool? I prefer ...

Do you spend most of your time indoors or outdoors (or out of doors)?

I spend most ...

knee

kneel – knelt – knelt

What do we call this joint of the leg?

We call ... a knee

On what occasions do people kneel?

The occasions on which people kneel are when they say their prayers etc.

late

lately

Who was the leader of the late government in your country?

The leader of ... was ...

What do we mean when we speak about the late Mr Johnson?

When we speak ..., we mean the Mr Johnson who has recently died

Have you seen any good films at the cinema lately? Yes, I've seen ...
~ No, I haven't seen ...

match

judo

Do many women like to match their handbags with their shoes?
Yes, many women ...

715 Do you think a small man who was good at judo would be a match for a big man who knew how to box?
Yes, I think ...
~ No, I don't think ...

Are football matches usually held at the weekend or during the week?
Football matches ... at the weekend

funeral

What colour clothes do European people usually wear for a funeral?
European people usually wear black for a funeral

mystery

Do you like reading mystery stories? Yes, I like ... ~ No, I don't like ...

path

Why do we have a path in a garden?
We have ...
so that people don't walk
on the grass or on the flowers

insure

insurance

theft

Is it the law in your country that everyone has to insure their car against accidents?
Yes, It's the law in ...
~ No, it isn't the law in ...

Do you have any insurance against loss or theft for your personal possessions?
Yes, I have ... ~ No, I don't have ...

What do we call the chair a king or queen sits on? We call ... a throne

annoy**fly****fall asleep**

Does it annoy you when you're watching a film at the cinema and someone in the audience keeps talking? Yes, it annoys me ...

~ No, it doesn't annoy me ...

If a fly was flying around your head while you were trying to fall asleep, would you get annoyed or would you be able to ignore it? If a fly ...
I'd ...

sore

What do you think is the best thing to do for a sore throat? I think the best ...

If you rubbed your finger on the edge of the table like this for a long time, what'd happen? If I rubbed my finger ...
I'd get a sore finger

design

Tell me the name of a company that's famous for making beautifully designed products? The name of ... is ...

717 **Idiom 30**

keep your fingers crossed = wish for good luck

e.g. Good luck with the exam; I'll keep my fingers crossed for you.

What does the idiom "keep your fingers crossed" mean? The idiom ...
"wish for good luck"

Give me an example, please. It's quite a cloudy day for a picnic, so we'll just have to keep our fingers crossed it doesn't rain

Is it the custom in your country for people to cross their fingers when they wish for something? If not, what do they do instead? Yes, it's the custom ... ~ No, it isn't the custom ...; instead, they ...



Dictation 86

It looks as if/ we are in serious trouble./ Not only have we lost our money/ and return tickets home,/ but also the key to the front door./ I will have to look the word up/ in a modern dictionary;/ this one is too old./ Though there has been some delay,/ the goods will nonetheless/ arrive in time./ Walking in the forest,/ we came across a great lion,/ which did not seem at all fierce,/ lying lazily in the sun./ He was clearly the king of the forest, however,/ and did not need to do anything/ to show the other animals/ that this was his kingdom.