

## English Grammar: Preposition + Gerund

In English, a preposition, if followed by a verb, demands a 'gerund'. For example:

- Thanks **for helping** me.
- I'm tired **of walking** to work.
- I suffer **from typing** too much.
- She is good **at speaking** English.
- You can get fit **by cycling** to work.
- You can't count **on drinking** coffee to stay awake.
- I'm interested **in learning** French.
- I need to give **up smoking** cigarettes.
- I brush my teeth **before going** to bed.
- I went home **after leaving** the party.
- Let's talk **about going** to Europe.
- I don't agree **with watching** TV after midnight.
- You can't make an omelet **without breaking** an egg.
- I am **against smoking** in public places.
- I am used **to speaking** English.

The word 'to' has two meanings – it can be part of an infinitive verb or it can be a preposition:

### A) Infinitive:

I want **to see** you tomorrow.

He needs **to work** harder.

We tried **to understand** him.

### B) Preposition:

I am used **to speaking** English.

The Japanese are accustomed **to taking off** their shoes at home.

I look forward **to meeting** you tomorrow.

We are committed **to providing** quality service.

Suggested video: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/qCSTc5iEOw8> (1 min)

The "preposition + gerund" rule in English can create sentences with two "-ing" words:

- I'm **thinking** about **travelling** to Europe next year.
- I'm **looking** forward to **seeing** you tomorrow.

Sometimes there is a noun between the **preposition** and the **gerund**:

- I'm tired **of people taking** my food from the fridge.
- It depends **on John arriving** early.
- I don't agree **with kids watching** TV after midnight.

**Exercise 1.** Complete the following using a preposition and the given verbs:

1. He is really good \_\_\_\_\_ football. (*play*)
2. Please don't leave \_\_\_\_\_ goodbye. (*say*)
3. You can go to bed \_\_\_\_\_ your teeth. (*brush*)
4. Are you interested \_\_\_\_\_ your own company? (*start*)
5. I'm really looking forward \_\_\_\_\_ you next week. (*meet*)

**Exercise 2.** Make some sentences by making combinations from the two lists:

I'm looking forward to  
I'm thinking about  
I'm interested in  
I'm worried about  
I'm tired of

visiting the doctor.  
going to the cinema.  
drinking too much.  
working every day.  
retiring early.  
sleeping late tomorrow.  
seeing Tom on Saturday.  
playing the guitar.  
working from home.

**Exercise 3.** Translate to English:

1. Vamos falar sobre estudar outros idiomas.

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2. Eu sempre tiro os sapatos antes de entrar.

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3. Você sempre toma banho depois de se exercitar?

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4. A trance is a state between sleeping and waking.

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5. Eu vou desfrutar de muitas coisas além de comer?

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6. Cantar sem respirar não é fácil.

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