

GERUND AND INFINITIVE: PERFECT AND PASSIVE FORMS

Perfect Gerund

So far we have learnt about Simple Gerunds where Gerunds refer to the same time as that of the verb in the main clause. The Perfect Gerund refers to a time before that of the verb in the main clause. We use the perfect infinitive or the perfect gerund (having + gerund) to emphasize that the action is complete or in the past:

*He denied **being** married.* (the simple gerund *being* refers to the same time as *denied*: He denied that he was married.)

*He denied **having been** married.* (the perfect gerund *having been* refers to a time before *denied*: He denied that he had been married.)

Passive Gerund

Passive forms of Gerund are used to describe that the subject of the sentence is being acted upon. To understand it, look at the following sentences:

*I hate **being lied to**.* (passive simple gerund: I hate it when people lie to me.)

*He complained of **having been unjustly accused**.* (passive perfect gerund: He complained that they had unjustly accused him.)

*I don't mind **being told** what to do.*

*He denied **having been offered** money to kill the senator.*

Simple gerund vs perfect gerund

There is usually no difference between using the simple gerund or the perfect gerund, because the context usually makes clear when the action happened.

- *He **denied stealing** the money.* (=It's clear the money was stolen before denying it)
- *He **denied having stolen** the money.*
- *She **regretted marrying** too early.* (=It's clear she married before regretting it)
- *She **regretted having married** too early.*

But sometimes there is a difference in meaning between using the simple gerund or the perfect gerund.

- *He **denied being** married.* (=he denied that he was married 'now', at the time of the denial)
- *He **denied having been** married.* (=he denied that he had been married before, in the past)

Simple infinitive vs perfect infinitive

As it happens with the gerund, sometimes there's no difference between using the simple or the perfect forms of the infinitive.

- *It was stupid of me **to say** anything on Twitter.*
- *It was stupid of me **to have said** anything on Twitter.*

However, there is usually a difference in meaning between using the simple or the perfect infinitive forms, and we need to use the perfect forms to make clear that the action expressed by the infinitive was previous to the action described by the main verb.

- *I'm very glad **to work** here.* (=now)
- *I'm very glad **to have worked** here.* (=in the past)

* - However, it is only used if the time of the action expressed by the gerund is not obvious from the context.

PASSIVE AND PERFECT FORMS OF INFINITIVES AND GERUNDS CHART

FORMS	SIMPLE	PERFECT
ACTIVE	to see seeing	to have seen having seen
PASSIVE	to be seen being seen	to have been seen having been seen

<p>PERFECT INFINITIVE: to have + <i>past participle</i></p> <p>(a) The snow seems to have stopped.</p>	<p>The event expressed by a perfect infinitive or perfect gerund happened before the time of the main verb. In (a): <i>The snow seems now to have stopped a few minutes ago.*</i></p>
<p>PERFECT GERUND: having + <i>past participle</i></p> <p>(b) I appreciate having had the opportunity to meet Senator Givens.</p>	<p>In (b): I met the senator yesterday. <i>I appreciate now having had the opportunity to meet the senator yesterday.*</i></p>
<p>PASSIVE INFINITIVE: to be + <i>past participle</i></p> <p>(c) I didn't want to be invited to her party.</p>	<p>In (c): to be invited is passive. The understood <i>by</i>-phrase is "by her": <i>I didn't want to be invited by her.</i></p>
<p>PASSIVE GERUND: being + <i>past participle</i></p> <p>(d) I appreciated being invited to your home.</p>	<p>In (d): being invited is passive. The understood <i>by</i>-phrase is "by you": <i>I appreciated being invited by you.</i></p>
<p>PERFECT-PASSIVE INFINITIVE:</p> <p>to have been + <i>past participle</i></p> <p>(e) Nina is lucky to have been given a scholarship.</p>	<p>In (e): Nina was given a scholarship last month by her government. She is fortunate. <i>Nadia is fortunate now to have been given a scholarship last month by her government.</i></p>
<p>PERFECT-PASSIVE GERUND:</p> <p>having been + <i>past participle</i></p> <p>(f) I appreciate having been told the news.</p>	<p>In (f): I was told the news yesterday by someone. I appreciate that. <i>I appreciate now having been told the news yesterday by someone.</i></p>

*If the main verb is past, the action of the perfect infinitive or gerund happened before a time in the past:

--The rain **seemed to have stopped**. = The rain seemed at 6 PM to have stopped before 6 PM.

-- I **appreciated having had** the opportunity to meet the senator. = I met the senator in 2005. In 2007 I appreciated having had the opportunity to meet the senator in 2005.

Exercises

1. Rewrite the following sentences without using the gerund.

MODEL *They are tired of working so hard. – They are tired because they have worked hard.*

- 1) They were surprised at John's having worked so slowly.
 - 2) This actor is good at playing such parts.
 - 3) The actor was proud of having played the part of Hamlet.
 - 4) The producer was proud of the actor's playing the part of Hamlet.
 - 5) The producer was proud of the actor's having played the part of Hamlet.
 - 6) The passenger was suspected of travelling without a ticket.
 - 7) The passenger was suspected of having travelled without a ticket.
 - 8) The man was accused of stealing secret documents.
 - 9) The man was accused of having stolen secret documents.
 - 10) I remember meeting her somewhere.
 - 11) I don't remember ever having met her.
 - 12) Excuse him for being so rude.
 - 13) She couldn't excuse him for having been so rude.
2. Decide if the simple gerund could be used in the following sentences.
- 1) He was blamed for having made the mess.
 - 2) She denied having spoken with him.
 - 3) Having found a house on rent, we looked for packer & mover for shifting.
 - 4) I am sorry for having made a mistake.
 - 5) He was accused of having been involved in the robbery.
 - 6) I remember having met her once before.
 - 7) She was feeling guilty for not having fulfilled her moral duty towards her mother.

3. Correct the mistakes in the following sentences.

- 1) There is no need for the team .
- 2) The portrait is thought in 1595.
- 3) The student apologised for into his teacher's Twitter account.
- 4) It was no surprise that they had split up. We could see that coming.
- 5) It's no use to escape. This is a maximum security prison.
- 6) I certainly won't miss by him every day.
- 7) You are not supposed this now.
- 8) I'd love last Tuesday's concert.
- 9) I can't stand people in the cinema. I find them very rude.
- 10) Convicts can choose how , either by lethal injection or by electric chair.

4. Choose the correct option/s for the sentences below.

- 1) The manager was accused of _____ the origin of the money. (Choose TWO correct answers)
- a. not investigating
 - b. not to investigate
 - c. not to have investigated
 - d. not having investigated

2) The delegate refused _____.

- a. being interviewed
- b. to interview
- c. having been interviewed
- d. to be interviewed

3) There's no point _____ for a culprit now.

- a. looking
- b. to look
- c. in looking
- d. in to look

4) That's easy _____ because you have nothing to lose.

- a. that you say
- b. for you to say
- c. you saying
- d. to you to say

5) He admitted _____ the gun to the murderer.

- a. to give
- b. giving
- c. to have given
- d. having given

6) I don't mind _____ me that I'm wrong.

- a. you telling
- b. you to tell
- c. for you to tell
- d. you tell

7) The company has reached an agreement _____ by an investing consortium.

- a. to acquire
- b. acquiring
- c. to be acquired
- d. being acquired

8) I hate _____ in August. I would rather _____ a day off on the beach.

- a. have to work / be enjoying
- b. having to work / to be enjoying

c. to have to work / being enjoying

d. having to work / be enjoying

9) They claim _____ badly treated by their protectors. (Choose TWO correct answers)

a. being

b. having been

c. to be

d. to have been

5. Rewrite the sentences using a form of gerund or infinitive so that they mean the same.

1) I don't like my parents telling me what to do. I don't like what to do by my parents.

2) He said he didn't take the money. He denied the money.

3) It is believed that he has been stealing money since he was hired 2 years ago. He is believed money since he was hired 2 years ago.

4) I wish I had travelled more in my university years. I would like more in my university years.

5) It seems that they are having fun. They seem fun.

6) He is angry because he has been criticised by the commentators. He resents by the commentators.

7) I would have preferred to stay at home. I'd rather at home.

8) The new boss fired Terry a minute ago. Terry is the last employee by the new boss.

9) People think they are looking for solutions. They are thought for solutions.

10) He wishes he hadn't been so stubborn. He regrets so stubborn.