

THEME 2 HOBBIES AND SKILLS GRAMMAR

1. GERUND-INFINITIVE

INFINITIVE

We use "the infinitive"

1. after some verbs such as

advise	decide	invite	pretend	tend
afford	expect	intend	promise	threaten
agree	fail	learn	recommend	wait
allow	forget	manage	remember	want
appear	get	need	refuse	warn
arrange	happen	offer	say	wish
ask	help	plan	seem	would like
come	hope	prepare	teach	dare

*They couldn't afford **to go** on holiday last summer*

*You need **to be** a good swimmer with good balance **to be** an expert surfer.*

*You mustn't forget **to wear** your helmet when you go rock-climbing.*

2. to express purpose

I went to England **to improve** my English.

I studied all night **to get** a good mark.

3. after certain adjectives such as

glad	sad	proud	happy	pleased	reluctant
stupid	disappointed	ashamed		clever	surprised
good	afraid	difficult	nice	kind	sorry

*Sometimes it is difficult **to persuade** old people to think in a different way.*

*I was surprised **to see** Celine at the party.*

*She was proud **to be** the best player in the team.*

4. to express a specific preference (after would like / would love / would prefer)

I am really tired. I would like **to go** to bed a bit earlier tonight.

5. after "too-enough" constructions

*He is too young **to have** a driving licence.*

*You aren't strong enough **to lift** the table.*

GERUND

We use "the gerund"

1. after some verbs such as

admit	confess	enjoy	give up	mention	quit	suggest
appreciate	consider	fancy	hate	miss	regret	worth
avoid	delay	finish	imagine	mind	risk	
can't bear	deny	forgive	involve	postpone	stand	
can't stand	dislike	go	keep	practice	stop	

Most surfers enjoy **riding** the waves in Hawaii.

We had to postpone **going** on a picnic because of bad weather conditions.

While you are surfing the Net, you should avoid **getting** too close to the screen.

You had better quit **eating** too much chocolate otherwise you will put on weight.

2. after verbs of likes and dislikes (like, enjoy, love, hate, don't mind....etc.)

I don't mind **sleeping** late because I don't have to get up early in the mornings.

3. as a subject

Riding the waves is the thrill of a lifetime.

Drinking too much coffee fastens your heartbeat.

4. after prepositions such as

talk about object to insist on instead of thank for

good/bad at tired of succeed in be gifted in afraid of

interested in fond of apologize for feel like rely on

keen on crazy about complain about accustomed to responsible for

use for blame for worry about happy about think about

believe in be into look forward to think of

Eskil is interested in **balancing** when he was five years old.

All the students are responsible for **obeying** the school rules.

We are interested in **collecting** stamps

Exercise 1 : Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.

1. Sue has always enjoyed (1) _____ (go) skiing. One day, when she saw some people (2) _____ (snowboard), she decided (3) _____ (give) it a try. It was more difficult than she had expected. At first she could not (4) _____ (keep) her balance on the board as easily as on skis, and it was almost impossible for her (5) _____ (go) any distance without (6) _____ (fall). She hates (7) _____ (fail) at any sport, so she continued (8) _____ (try) and she finally managed (9) _____ (go) all the way down a slope without an accident. It was then that she realised what a great sport it is, and now she'd rather (10) _____ (go) snowboarding than skiing.

2. I have always loved (1) _____ (take) part in team sports, so when my P.E. teacher asked me if I wanted (2) _____ (learn) how (3) _____ (play) handball, I immediately accepted. It sounded ideal for me as I don't mind (4) _____ (exercise) hard. But it wasn't as easy as I thought. I kept (5) _____ (practise) every day including weekends. But I gave up in the end because I couldn't (6) _____ (concentrate) on my lessons.

Exercise 2 : Choose the correct options.

1. A: What do you think about the show? B: It's very nice the live performances.

a. watch b. to watch c. to watching

2. A: I've never seen Bob diving into the sea. B: Ahh, you don't know. His disability prevents him from

a. dive b. to dive c. diving

3. A: What are we doing now? B: I think it's time to my favourite band's new single.

a. to listen b. listening c. listen

4. A: I feel really disappointed. B: I'm so sorry for not the equipment you wanted. I completely forgot it.

- a. buy b. buying c. to buy

5. A: I'm glad in the school team. B: Me, too.

- a. to be b. be c. being

6. A: You promised me to the circus but you didn't. B: I'm deeply sorry.

- a. taking b. take c. to take

2. EXPRESSING PREFERENCES

1. WOULD LIKE

We use "would like"

- to talk about what we want to do.

After would like we use the infinitive with to.

Do you have any time? I would like to talk to you about something.

I wouldn't like to go on holiday alone. It must be really boring.

Affirmative

I / He / She / It / We / You / They would like to have a cup of coffee.

Negative

I / He / She / It / We / You / They wouldn't like to have a cup of coffee.

Interrogative

Would I / he / she / it / we / you / they like to have a cup of coffee?

NOTE : "would like" has the same meaning with "want" but would like is more polite than want.

2. PREFER

We use "prefer"

- to state general preferences.

I don't like big cities. I prefer living in the countryside. / My little daughter prefers wearing pink clothes instead of yellow.

Affirmative

I / You / We / They prefer visiting historical places.

He / She / It prefers visiting historical places.

Negative

I / You / We / They don't prefer visiting historical places.

He / She / It doesn't prefer visiting historical places.

Interrogative

Do I / you / we / they prefer visiting historical places?

Does he / she / it prefer visiting historical places?

I prefer a full-time job to a part-time one.

My son prefers playing computer games to playing an instrument.

3. WOULD RATHER

We use "would rather"

- to state specific preferences.

I would rather visit Aquarium when I go to İstanbul this summer.

Affirmative

I / He / She / It / We / You / They would rather ('d rather) eat out.

Negative

I / He / She / It / We / You / They would rather not eat out.

Interrogative

Would I / he / she / it / we / you / they rather eat out?

4. WOULD PREFER

We use "would prefer"

• to say what someone wants in a specific situation not in general.

A: Shall we meet in front of the theatre?

B: No, I would prefer to meet in front of the City Hall. It is nearer.

Affirmative

I / He / She / It / We / You / They would prefer to go there by train.

Negative

I / He / She / It / We / You / They wouldn't prefer to go there by train.

Interrogative

Would I / he / she / it / we / you / they prefer to go there by train?

*** Would rather and would prefer have the same meaning but;

We use Subject + would rather + verb + than + verb

The sun is shining outside. I would rather sit in the garden than play chess here.

We use Subject + would prefer + to + verb + rather than + verb

The match on TV is very exciting. I would prefer to watch it rather than chat with my parents.

Exercise 1 : Fill in the blanks with would rather, prefer, would prefer.

1. Diana _____ knit than sew. I'm sure, she'll love it.
2. Do you _____ watching extreme sports or documentaries?
3. _____ you _____ to do salsa or tango?
4. They _____ making music to listening to it.

Exercise 2. Complete the following dialogues using would rather, prefer or would prefer.

1. **Sam:** Let's go out tonight.

June: I _____ stay home.

2. **Amy:** What does Ellen think about Jack's performance?

Ted: She _____ him to sing more songs.

3. **Ida:** Do you like jazz or classic rock?

Bob: Neither. I _____ listening to pop music.

4. **Mia:** Would you like eggs and cheese for breakfast?

Meg: I'm vegan. I _____ eat a tofu omelette, thank you.

5. **Eva:** You didn't say a word in the meeting.

Rue: As I'm a bit shy, I _____ to stay quiet during meetings.

6. **Max:** Shall we have our dinner on the balcony?

Ana: It's a bit chilly. I _____ to dine in.

7. **Kai:** Do you like writing poetry?

Rey: Not at all. I _____ study maths for hours than write poetry.

Exercise3 : Choose the correct option

1. Until I find a suitable flat, I would rather _____ with my relatives _____ in a dormitory.

a) stay – than b) staying – to c) to stay – than

2. **A:** Do you like baggy trousers?

B: Actually not. I prefer _____ skinny jeans _____ baggy ones. I think they are more fashionable.

a) wear – to wear b) wearing – to wearing c) wearing – than wearing

3. I would prefer _____ to her directly _____ this problem on the phone.

a) to talk – to solve b) talking – than solving c) to talk – rather than solve

4. I would rather _____ from the job _____ those bad working conditions.

a) resigning – than accepting b) resign – than accept c) resign – to accept

5. I would like _____ my favourite singer on the stage when she comes to our city.

a) see b) seeing c) to see

6. People prefer _____ in supermarkets _____ to the local shops as they can find whatever they need.

a) shopping – to going b) shop – than go c) to shop – to go

7. I have been studying for hours and I feel sleepy, but I won't go to bed. I would like _____ this project even if it lasts till the morning.

a) finish b) to finish c) finishing

3. PAST AND PRESENT ABILITIES (CAN / CAN'T / COULD / COULDN'T / WAS ABLE TO)

CAN-CAN'T

• We use can to talk about ability.

She can speak English fluently.

Affirmative

I / He / She / It / We / You / They can play chess.

Negative

I / He / She / It / We / You / They can't (cannot) ski

Interrogative

Can I / he / she / it / we / you / they do ice skating?

COULD-COULDN'T

• Could / couldn't are the past tense forms of can (ability).

I could run fast when I was young.

My sister couldn't read when she was 3.

Could you play the flute when you were 10?

WAS/WERE ABLE TO

• We use "could" for general statements.

• We use "was/were able to" for specific events or when something was difficult, but you manage to do it.

My brother is a real intelligent boy. He could play chess when he was only five.

The other team played very well, but we were able to win.

Our goalkeeper was great, so the other team couldn't score a goal.

He could run very fast when he was a young boy, but now he's very old, and it's very difficult for him to do sports.

She is a very talented girl. She can draw amazing pictures.

Exercise 1 : Fill in the blanks with can, can't, could, couldn't, was/were able to.

1. When his mother was young she _____ skate but she can't do it any longer.
2. Tom is really into music. He _____ play three instruments.
3. Although it was raining hard, we _____ finish the match.
4. As the weather was stormy, we _____ go sailing.
5. Mary was a fast runner. She _____ run 18 km per hours.
6. He _____ read without glasses till he suffered from visual disorder.

Exercise 2 : Fill in the blanks with the words can, can't, could, couldn't.

1. I'm really into art. I _____ express my feelings through colours. I think I'm gifted in drawing.
2. Mozart was a famous child as he _____ play the piano and write music when he was four.
3. Most of my friends enjoy scuba diving but I _____ do it because I'm afraid of sea creatures.
4. Gwen's brother is very intelligent. He _____ play chess when he was a little boy.
5. I've tried pottery many times but I _____ succeed it. I think I'm not creative enough.
6. Demi Lovato is an amazing pop singer. Do you know what she does in her leisure time? She _____ knit very well.
7. Unfortunately, I'm not good at music at all. I _____ even do karaoke.
8. My grandma _____ use a computer when she was young but now what she likes most is to have a chat with friends on the Net.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with can, can't, could or couldn't.

1. Andy _____ speak Italian when he was in Venice, but now he _____ only understand.
2. Adele _____ climb the highest hills when she was young, but she _____ even walk now.
3. Zac _____ compete in races now, but he _____ even run fast as a teenager.
4. Sid _____ use a computer ten years ago, but today he _____ design websites.
5. I _____ bake anything before the lockdown, but I _____ bake five kinds of bread these days.
6. Sam _____ even take a selfie in the past, but he _____ take excellent photos now.

Exercise 4. Rewrite the sentences using can, can't, could or couldn't.

1. Since the kids weren't capable of setting up a tent, their teachers helped them.
_____.
2. He's completed a two-week scuba diving training, but he's still unable to dive alone.
_____.
3. Mina is a brilliant young lady who has the ability to complete difficult tasks easily.
_____.
4. He understands every word in Chinese because he has lived there for eight years.
_____.
5. The cave was too dark, so the climbers were unable to find their way out easily.
_____.
6. Albert was able to read and write when he was only four.
_____.
7. Following the surgery, Dustin was able to walk again.
_____.