

# Aula 9

## DO YOU LIKE YOUR JOB? - INFINITIVE AND GERUND

### **META**

Aprender quais são os verbos seguidos de infinitivo e gerúndio ou ambos.

### **OBJETIVOS**

At the end of this class, it is expected that the students:

Ter conhecimento sobre os verbos seguidos de  
infinitivo e gerúndio;

Discutir sobre a satisfação na atividade laboral e algumas escolhas que fazemos.

### **PRERREQUISITOS**

Ter conhecimento sobre verbos e preposições.

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## INTRODUCTION

We are closed to the end and in this unit we will talk about satisfaction in the profession and in the lifestyle. Are you satisfied with your profession or lifestyle? Are you okay with the job you do? Is everything okay with your routine activities? Within this context we will bring out the Infinitive and Gerund as the main structures from the lesson.

The text we will read that talks about how some people find themselves in their job. Let's start with a text called "Carpet Fitter". Do you know this profession?

A Carpet fitter is a job we don't have in Brazil. Most of cold countries may have it because houses and apartments usually have the floors lined with carpets. In Brazil, people mostly use floor covering because we live in a hot country and carpets are now appropriate.

Let's start!



We find carpet fitters in Europe and USA. Fonte: <http://www.sitemasters.plc.uk>.

Eddie was a carpet fitter, and he hated it. For ten years he had spent his days sitting, squatting, kneeling or crawling on floors, in houses, offices, shops, factories and restaurants. Ten years of his life, cutting and fitting carpets for other people to walk on, without even seeing them. When his work was done, no-one ever appreciated it. No-one ever said "Oh, that's a beautiful job, the carpet fits so neatly." They just walked all over it. Eddie was sick of it.

He was especially sick of it on this hot, humid day in August, as he worked to put the finishing touches to today's job. He was just cutting and fixing the last edge on a huge red carpet which he had fitted in the living room of Mrs. Vanbrugh's house. Rich Mrs. Vanbrugh, who changed her carpets every year, and always bought the best. Rich Mrs. Vanbrugh, who had never even given him a cup of tea all day, and who made him go outside when he wanted to smoke. Ah well, it was four o'clock and he had nearly finished. At least he would be able to get home early today. He began to day-dream about the weekend, about the Saturday football game he always

played for the local team, where he was known as "Ed the Head" for his skill in heading goals from corner kicks.

Eddie sat back and sighed. The job was done, and it was time for a last cigarette. He **began tapping** the pockets of his overalls, looking for the new packet of Marlboro he had bought that morning. They were not there.

It was as he swung around to look in his toolbox for the cigarettes that Eddie saw the lump. Right in the middle of the brand new bright red carpet, there was a lump. A very visible lump. A lump the size of -- the size of a packet of cigarettes.

"Blast!" said Eddie angrily. "I've done it again! I've left the cigarettes under the blasted carpet!"

He had done this once before, and taking up and refitting the carpet had taken him two hours. Eddie was determined that he was not going to spend another two hours in this house. He decided to get rid of the lump another way. It would **mean wasting** a good packet of cigarettes, nearly full, but anything was better than taking up the whole carpet and fitting it again. He turned to his toolbox for a large hammer.

Holding the hammer, Eddie approached the lump in the carpet. He didn't **want to damage** the carpet itself, so he took a block of wood and placed it on top of the lump. Then he **began to beat** the block of wood as hard as he could. He **kept beating, hoping** Mrs. Vanbrugh wouldn't hear the noise and come to see what he was doing. It would be difficult to explain why he was hammering the middle of her beautiful new carpet.

After three or four minutes, the lump was beginning to flatten out. Eddie imagined the cigarette box breaking up, and the crushed cigarettes spreading out under the carpet. Soon, he judged that the lump was almost invisible. Clearing up his tools, he began to move the furniture back into the living room, and he was careful to place one of the coffee tables over the place where the lump had been, just to make sure that no-one would see the spot where his cigarettes had been lost. Finally, the job was finished, and he called Mrs. Vanbrugh from the dining room to inspect his work.

"Yes, dear, very nice," said the lady, peering around the room briefly. "You'll be sending me a bill, then?"

"Yes madam, as soon as I report to the office tomorrow that the job is done." Eddie picked up his tools, and began to walk out to the van. Mrs. Vanbrugh accompanied him. She seemed a little worried about something.

"Young man," she began, as he climbed into the cab of his van, laying his toolbox on the passenger seat beside him, "while you were working today, you didn't by any chance see any sign of Armand, did you? Armand is my parakeet. A beautiful bird, just beautiful, such colors in his feathers... I let him out of his cage, you see, this morning, and he's disappeared. He likes to walk around the house, and he's so good, he usually just comes back to his cage after an hour or so and gets right in. Only today he didn't come

back. He's never done such a thing before, it's most peculiar..."

"No, madam, I haven't seen him anywhere," said Eddie, as he reached to start the van.

And saw his packet of Marlboro cigarettes on the dashboard, where he had left it at lunchtime....

And remembered the lump in the carpet....

And realised what the lump was....

And remembered the hammering....

And began to feel rather sick....

Credits:Story: MDH 1994 — from a common urban legend

source:<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/410/reading/fitter.htm>

Read the text and answer the questions below:

Activity:

1. What's Eddie's job?
2. Why did Eddie hate being a carpet-fitter?
3. What did Eddie think of Mrs. Vanbrugh?
4. Why was Eddie called "Ed the Head" by his friends?
5. What did Eddie want to do when he had finished fitting the carpet?
6. What did Eddie do with the hammer?
7. What was really under the carpet?

What do you think about Eddie's situation?

Have you ever been feeling like him?

What would you do in a situation like that?



In a comic way we have an example of the infinitive form  
Source: Conecte Keys, 2011

Have you noticed some words in bold from the text? They are followed by infinitive or gerund. There is a group of verbs that are followed by infinitive, gerund or both.

Infinitive:

Used after the following verbs: Ask, decide, expect, forget, help hope, invite, learn, need, offer, plan, pretend, promise, refuse, start, want, wish, would like.

After modal verbs (without the preposition to);  
After the conjunctions but and except.

Gerund:

Used after prepositions ( for, of, about, in, at , with etc.) and some verbs: Admit, avoid, appreciate, can't help, consider, contemplate, delay, detest, deny, dislike, enjoy, escape, forgive, finish, go on (continue), hate, like, love, mention, mind, miss, postpone, practice, quit, resist, suggest, understand, don't mind, spend (time), stop.

After the expressions: give up, put off, keep on, carry on, go on

Gerund and Infinitive:

A few verbs can be followed by both: Advise, allow, attempt, can't bear, begin, continue, forbid, forget, go on, hate, hear, intend, like, love, permit, prefer, propose, regret, remember, see, start, stop, try, watch.

A few adjectives too:

Accustomed, afraid, certain, interested, sorry, sure, used

In the cases of *try* and *remember* there is a difference in meaning:

*Why don't you try doing yoga?* = *experimente with something*

*Do you remember meeting him last year?* = *remember something after it happened*

*Start + ing is more common when we talk about a habit or longer activity.*

*I started working here in 1998.*

For further details look out Michael Swan Grammar.

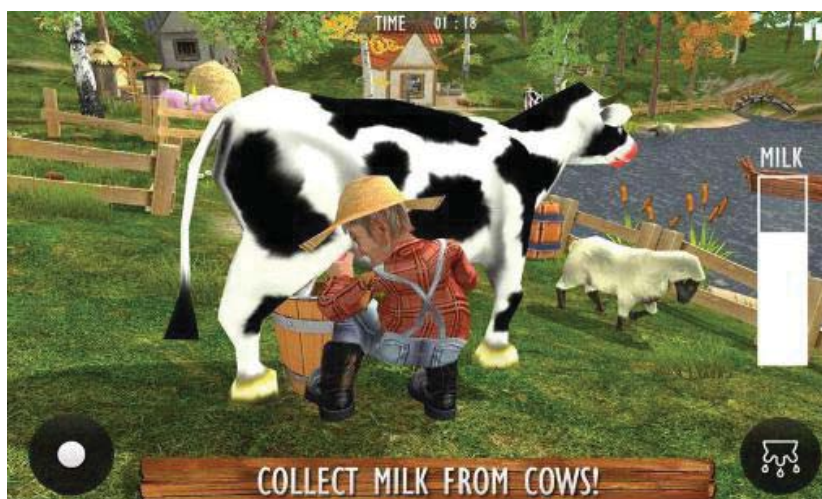
As you are aware of the rules let's keep on going the carpet fitter activity:

Fill in the blanks with the gerund or infinitive verb.

1. Eddie didn't enjoy \_\_\_\_\_(be) a carpet fitter.
2. He disliked \_\_\_\_\_(work) for Mrs Vanbrugh.

3. As a football player, Eddie was very good at \_\_\_\_\_  
(head) the ball.
4. Eddie expected \_\_\_\_\_(find) his cigarettes in his pocket.
5. After he had finished work, Eddie was shocked \_\_\_\_\_(see) a lump in the carpet.
6. He considered \_\_\_\_\_(take) up the carpet again, but decided it would be too much trouble.
7. Thinking the lump was only his packet of cigarettes, he decided \_\_\_\_\_(hammer) it flat.
8. He kept \_\_\_\_\_(hit) the lump until it was flat.
9. After some hammering, the lump began \_\_\_\_\_(get) flatter.
10. Eddie worked quickly because he didn't want Mrs Vanbrugh to see him \_\_\_\_\_(hammer) the carpet.

As we are talking about being satisfied in a job activity and lifestyle, what do you think about living on a farm? “A Farmer Life” is the title of our next text. It shows the routine of a farmer.



The farmer is milking a cow. Fonte: <http://1079638729.rsc.cdn77.org>.

- Do you mind getting up early?
- If you live an urban life, would you like to move to a countryside?
- Would you like to try changing your lifestyle?
- How do you take decisions?

Let's read about Mr. Jones and complete the text using ING or Infinitive:

Complete the text using the correct form of the verb in brackets.

Farmer Jones met Jane when he was just a young man. He

couldn't help \_\_\_\_\_(1 fall) in love with her immediately and asked her to marry him. She said yes although she knew it would mean \_\_\_\_\_(2 get) up early to milk the cows for the rest of her life. "Love means never \_\_\_\_\_(3 have) to get up early to milk the cows", said Farmer Jones, and explained that he would continue \_\_\_\_\_(4 get) up early to milk the cows so Jane could sleep late every day. Everything went well until they tried \_\_\_\_\_(5 increase) their profits by buying some chickens. The first night, a fox ate one of the chickens. Farmer Jones decided \_\_\_\_\_(6 build) a fence to protect the chickens. But the ground was too hard so he couldn't. He tried \_\_\_\_\_(7 use) an axe to break the ground but it was much too hard. So he went to the local shop and tried \_\_\_\_\_(8 buy) a gun. But he didn't have any identification so he couldn't buy one. He tried \_\_\_\_\_(9 borrow) one from his neighbours but they were all worried about the fox too. "I regret not \_\_\_\_\_(10 buy) one when I had those rabbit problems", he told Jane. So Jane went to the shop and bought a gun. That night she tried \_\_\_\_\_(11 stop) the fox. At first she tried \_\_\_\_\_(12 scare) the fox by shooting into the air but it didn't work. So she tried \_\_\_\_\_(13 hit) the fox but she missed. She called her husband and he ran after the fox to try \_\_\_\_\_(14 catch) it but he wasn't fast enough. They tried \_\_\_\_\_(15 shout) at the fox and they tried \_\_\_\_\_(16 throw) things at it and they tried \_\_\_\_\_(17 leave) other food for the fox but nothing worked. Soon they had only 1 chicken left. They tried \_\_\_\_\_(18 ask) their neighbours for help and one of their neighbours told them to try \_\_\_\_\_(19 put) tiger dung on the ground. So they went to the local zoo to try \_\_\_\_\_(20 buy) some tiger dung. They put the dung on the ground and they never saw the fox again.

Fonte: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/gerunds-infinitives-farmer-jones-his-wife>

A group of friends, Paul, Judy and Alan, are planning to find a house to share together. Read how they each feel about this. Then re-write the sentences using the verb given and the correct phrase from the box.



**Example:**

Alan thinks it's a good idea to be near the city centre. (would like)

Alan would like to live near the city centre.

a) not living in the city centre.

1 Judy doesn't think it's a good idea to live near the city centre. (suggest)

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

b) living in the city centre.

2 Paul doesn't like city centres. (hate)

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

c) to live near the city centre

3 Paul thinks it would be a good idea to live in the country. (would rather)

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

a) living in the country.

4 Paul hasn't live in the country for a long time. (miss)

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

b) live in the country.

5 Paul has made up his mind that he wants to live in the country. (decide)

5 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

c) to live in the country.

6 Judy likes rivers. (enjoy)

6 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

a) not to be near the river.

7 Paula likes rivers. (want)

7 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

b) to be near the river.

8 Alan doesn't think it's a good idea to live near a river. (would prefer)

8 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

c) being near the river.

9 Alan thinks it will be possible to find somewhere with a garden. (hope)

9 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

a) finding somewhere with a garden.

10 Paul would like somewhere with a garden. (feel like)

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

b) to find somewhere with a garden.



## CONCLUSION

Encerramos mais uma aula com conteúdo importantíssimo. O uso de infinitivo e gerúndio se faz após alguns verbos, expressões e preposições, no entanto para que o conteúdo seja consolidado é necessário leitura e que as atividades propostas sejam realizadas. Busque praticar as atividades e investigar mais sobre o assunto, assim como compilar em uma lista as regras para facilitar o estudo.



### SUMMARY

Esta foi a nossa penúltima aula e nela abordamos um pouco sobre a insatisfação profissional de Eddie e o estilo de vida do fazendeiro Jones. Em ambos trabalhamos o uso de infinitive and gerund após alguns verbos. Para um maior aprofundamento sobre o assunto foi sugerido a gramática de Michael Swan que se encontra na referência bibliográfica.



### SELF-EVALUATION

1. Li, compreendi e respondi as atividades sobre os textos corretamente?
2. Consegui fazer correlação com a minha realidade?
3. Estou sabendo utilizar o ponto gramatical corretamente?
4. Sei quais são os verbos do infinitivo e do gerúndio?



### NEXT CLASS

Adjectives and adverbs. Nesta aula aprenderemos a usar a sufixação e prefixação na formação de advérbios e a função destes.

## REFERENCE

LAVENDER, Sue; FORSYTH, Will. **Help with grammar**. Heinemann, 1993.

SWAN, Michael. **Practical English Usage**. Oxford Univ. Press, 2005.

TEXTO FARMER JONES. Disponível em: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/gerunds-infinitives-farmer-jones-his-wife>