

Module 5 – Reported Speech & Gerunds-Infinitives

Title: "Telling, Saying, and -ing vs To..."

[Opening]

Hi! Today we're combining reported speech with when to use gerunds vs infinitives—two patterns that often overlap.

[Section 1 – Reported Speech]

Reported speech is a way of conveying what someone else said without using their exact words; you simply rephrase their statement, by adjusting pronouns, tenses and time expressions.

Change of tense and pronouns:

He said, "I'm tired." → *He said he was tired.*

"I have seen it," she told me → *She told me she had seen it.*

Reporting verbs such as *say, tell, ask, explain, claim, admit, deny, promise, suggest* are used to introduce the reported statement.

Summary table of reported speech tenses:

Direct Speech Tense	Reported Speech Tense	Example
Present Simple	Past Simple	"I eat pizza." → He said he ate pizza.
Present Continuous	Past Continuous	"I am eating." → She said she was eating .
Present Perfect	Past Perfect	"I have eaten." → He said he had eaten .
Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	"I have been eating." → She said she had been eating .
Past Simple	Past Perfect	"I ate pizza." → He said he had eaten pizza.
Past Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	"I was eating." → She said she had been eating .

Past Perfect	Past Perfect (no change)	"I had eaten." → He said he had eaten .
Past Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous (no change)	"I had been eating." → She said she had been eating .
Will	Would	"I will go." → He said he would go .
Can	Could	"I can swim." → She said she could swim.
May	Might	"I may come." → He said he might come.
Must	Had to (often)	"I must leave." → She said she had to leave.

[Section 2 – Gerunds vs Infinitives]

Gerunds and infinitives are verb forms that can function as nouns within a sentence. Both can act as subjects, objects, or complements in a sentence.

Gerunds are verbs ending in -ING.

Examples:

Listening to music is a great way to relax.

She enjoys swimming

He is really good at painting.

Infinitives are the base form of a verb preceded by *to*:

Examples:

To become rich is my dream.

They decided to go out.

She has a lot of things to do.

He came to help her.

Special contrasts: stop to do vs stop doing.

Can you tell the difference between *He stopped smoking* vs *He stopped to smoke* ?

- **Stop doing something**

Form: stop + -ing

Meaning: **You quit or give up an activity.**

He stopped smoking.

→ He quit the habit of smoking. He no longer smokes.

- **Stop to do something**

Form: stop + to + base verb

Meaning: **You pause what you're doing in order to do something else.**

He stopped to smoke.

→ He paused another activity (e.g., walking or working) in order to smoke.

Expression	Meaning	Example
stop doing	Quit an activity permanently	He stopped smoking. (He quit.)
stop to do	Pause one activity to do another	He stopped to smoke. (He paused to light a cigarette.)

Other example:

She stopped talking => means she ceased speaking

She stopped to talk => means she interrupted another activity to begin speaking.