

1B Gerund and infinitive constructions

The verbs *forget*, *mean*, and *regret* can be followed by either an infinitive or a gerund. However, the meaning is significantly different in each case.

Forget followed by an infinitive refers to something you didn't actually do. *Forget* followed by a gerund refers to an action that you in fact did earlier.

Marcello **forgot to meet** his best friend at the train station.

Marcello never **forgot meeting** his favorite actor.

Mean followed by an infinitive means "intend." In this case, *mean* is usually used in the negative or in the past tense. *Mean* followed by a gerund means "involve or necessitate."

I **meant to visit** Sheila while I was in Hawaii, but I **didn't have the chance**.

Inviting Emile to the party **means inviting** Eva, too. She'd be so insulted if we **didn't**.

Regret followed by infinitives such as *inform*, *announce*, and *say* is a polite way of introducing bad news in official communication. *Regret* followed by a gerund means "be sorry for/about."

The corporation **regrets to inform** you that all job vacancies have been filled.

Donna really **regretted missing** her best friend's wedding.

Be + adjective expressions are often followed by an infinitive.

be amazed be determined be happy be lucky

be ashamed be eager be hesitant be ready

Be + adjective + preposition and verb + preposition expressions are often followed by a gerund.

be bored with be convinced of be good at be used to be worried about

apologize for complain about object to participate in take part in think of

1 Choose the correct form of the verb.

- Manny forgot **to do** / **(doing)** his homework for English class because he had completed it over a month ago.
- Mina didn't mean **to frighten** / **frightening** the baby with the doll.
- Though she didn't have much, Wendy never regretted **to spend** / **spending** money on her friends.
- I always forget **to call** / **calling** my parents, and they get really mad at me.
- Attending my high school reunion means **to see** / **seeing** old friends as well as people I didn't like very much.
- We regret **to announce** / **announcing** that Flight 54 has been delayed.

2 Complete the sentences with the infinitive or gerund form of the verb in parentheses.

- Gil is really eager **to rekindle** (rekindle) his relationship with Lana.
- I've been worried about _____ (meet) my new college roommate.
- I think you're really lucky _____ (have) so many close friends.
- Have you thought of _____ (send) an e-card instead of mailing a card?
- I'm ashamed _____ (say) that my college roommate and I never reconnected.
- I would like to apologize for _____ (rehash) all these old issues.