

Appendix

VERB PATTERNS: verbs followed by the gerund or infinitive

Gerund	
admit	In court the accused admitted (to) stealing the documents.
avoid	I always try to avoid driving in the rush hour.
be worth	It isn't worth going to the exhibition. It's really boring.
can't help	We can't help laughing when my dad tries to speak French. His accent is awful!
can't stand	I can't stand talking to people who only talk about themselves.
carry on*	We carried on chatting until about 2.00 in the morning.
deny	Miriam denied killing her husband but the jury didn't believe her.
enjoy	I used to enjoy flying, but now I don't.
fancy	Do you fancy seeing a film this evening?
feel like	I don't feel like going out tonight.
finish	Have you finished writing the report yet?
give up*	Karen has given up eating meat, but she still eats fish.
imagine	I can't imagine living in the country. I think I would get bored after a week.
involve	My boyfriend's job involves travelling at least once a month.
keep (on)	I keep (on) telling my husband to lose some weight, but he just won't listen.
look forward to	We are really looking forward to seeing you again.
mind	I don't mind doing housework. I find it quite relaxing.
miss	Does your father miss working now that he has retired?
postpone	We'll have to postpone going to the beach until the weather improves.
practise	The more you practise speaking English the more fluent you'll get.
recommend	I recommend doing a double-decker bus tour as the best way to see London.
regret	I regret not travelling more before I got my first job.
risk	If I were you, I wouldn't risk walking through the park at night.
spend	I spent half an hour looking for my glasses this morning.
stop	Once I open a box of chocolates, I can't stop eating them.
suggest	A friend of mine suggested visiting London in the autumn.

* All phrasal verbs which are followed by another verb, e.g. *carry on*, *give up*, etc. are followed by the gerund.

Infinitive (with to)	
afford	I can't afford to go on holiday this summer.
agree	I have agreed to pay David back the money he lent me next week.
appear	The results appear to support the scientist's theory.
arrange	I've arranged to meet Sally outside the restaurant.
be able	I won't be able to work for two weeks after the operation.
can't wait	We can't wait to see your new flat – it sounds fantastic.
choose	I chose to study abroad for a year, and it's the best thing I've ever done.
decide	They've decided to call off the wedding.
deserve	Kim deserves to get the job. She's a very strong candidate.
expect	We're expecting to get our exam results on Friday.
happen	Tom happened to be at Alan's when I called in, so I invited him to our party as well.
help*	The organization I work for helps young people to find work abroad.
hesitate	Don't hesitate to ask a member of staff if you need anything.
hope	I'm hoping to set up my own company if I can get a bank loan.
learn	I wish I had learnt to play the guitar when I was younger.
make	When I was at school, we were made to wear a uniform. It was awful.
manage	Did you manage to get to the airport in time?
offer	Lucy has offered to give me a lift to the station.
plan	We're planning to have a big party to celebrate.
pretend	I pretended to be enthusiastic, but really I didn't like the idea at all.
promise	Sarah always promises to help me in the kitchen, but she never does.
refuse	My neighbour refused to turn down the music and I had to call the police.
seem	Something seems to be wrong with the washing machine.
teach	Jack's father taught him to drive when he was 17.
tend	My boss tends to lose her temper when she's feeling stressed.
threaten	The teacher threatened to call my parents and tell them what I had done.
want	The police want to interview anyone who witnessed the crime.
would like	Would you like to try the dress on? The changing rooms are over there.

* *help* can be followed by the infinitive with or without *to*.
The organization I work for helps young people (to) find work abroad.

Infinitive (without to)	
can	Can you help me carry these suitcases?
had better	You'd better leave now if you want to catch that train.
let	Let me pay for coffee – it must be my turn.
make	Sue makes her two teenagers do the washing-up every evening after dinner.
may	There's a lot of traffic today, so we may be a bit late.
might	It might rain tomorrow, so please bring an umbrella or a raincoat.
must	I must remember to phone Harry – it's his birthday today.
should	Should we book a table for tomorrow night? It's a very popular restaurant.
would rather	You look tired. Would you rather stay in this evening and watch a film?