

GRAMMAR RECALL

Infinitives and Gerunds

Verbs, nouns and adjectives can collocate with (go with) infinitives and gerunds. There are no specific rules that govern whether an infinitive or a gerund should be used. Some verbs can collocate with either an infinitive or a gerund.

Read the sentences on the left and match them to a usage on the right.

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| 1 She agreed to give him the money. | a Noun followed by an infinitive. |
| 2 He practised playing the piano all day. | b Adjective followed by a gerund. |
| 3 It's wonderful to see you again. | c Verb followed by an infinitive. |
| 4 It's difficult knowing when to stop. | d Verb followed by a gerund. |
| 5 It's time to say goodbye. | e Adjective followed by an infinitive. |

Changes in Meaning

The meanings of some verbs can change depending on whether they are followed by an infinitive or gerund.

Example: He always **forgets** to lock the door. (It's a habit.)
He **hasn't forgotten** seeing the accident. (He can't lose the memory).



Infinitives and Gerunds

The best way of learning whether verbs are collocated with infinitives or gerunds is through extensive reading, and by recording the collocations in your vocabulary notebook as you come across them.

Attempt to light

ready to cook

try moving