

Grammar: Verbs + gerund or infinitive

A Look at these sentences and answer the questions.

If you can't afford to buy/buying an air chair, you can hire one.

Don't even think about to try/trying street luge on a normal road.

You may remember / to remember / remembering seeing one at the Olympics.

1. Which of the options is correct in each sentence?
2. What form does the verb usually take after phrasal verbs and prepositions?
3. What form does the verb usually always take after modal verbs?

B Look through the reading text again. Find at least five verbs or expressions that are followed by the -ing form, five verbs that are followed by the to-infinitive, and five followed by just the infinitive. Add them to the lists below:

Verbs + -ing	Verbs + to + infinitive	Verbs + infinitive

C Complete the sentences using your own ideas and a verb in the -ing form or to+infinitive, or infinitive

1. John wants to get fit, so he has decided _____.
2. I know my tennis racket isn't very good, but I can't afford _____.
3. Could we have our tennis game tomorrow? I don't really feel like _____.
4. This time tomorrow, you will _____.
5. He's 55 now, so he's had to give up _____.
6. The final is on Saturday. I'm really looking forward to _____.
7. The player was sent off because he threatened _____.
8. If humans could fly, we would _____.

D Gerund or infinitive – changes of meaning

Some verbs can be followed by the –ing form or the infinitive, but the meaning changes. Look at the following pairs of sentences and discuss the difference in meaning.

1. He remembered to post the letter.
2. He remembered posting the letter.
3. The assistant stopped to talk to the customer.
4. The assistant stopped talking to the customer.
5. I forgot to lock the door.
6. I'll never forget meeting Prince Charles.
7. I tried to swallow the aspirin but it was too big.
8. I tried taking an aspirin but I've still got a headache.
9. I regret to say that you have not passed the exam.
10. I regret telling her she wasn't any good.