

VERB PATTERNS - GERUNDS VS. INFINITIVES

1. WRITE THE FOLLOWING VERB FORMS UNDER THE CORRECT HEADING:

TO DO; TO BE DOING; HAVING DONE; TO HAVE DONE; TO HAVE BEEN DOING; DOING

FORMS OF THE INFINITIVE	FORMS OF THE GERUND

E.g. I have lots of homework **to do** every day.

I need **to be doing** a lot more to pass the exam.

He needed **to have done** more work in order to get an A in the exam.

He must **have been doing** a lot over these past few months to see such improvement in his written assignments.

Having done all his homework for the next day, he could now go out with his friends.

Even though he is aware of how important it is to be hard-working, **doing** his homework sometimes feels like the most boring thing to do.

2. FILL IN THE MISSING INFORMATION USING THE WORDS/PHRASES FROM THE BOX:

PURPOSE, PREPOSITIONS, ADJECTIVES, CERTAIN VERBS (X2), PREFER, NOUN

❖ WE USE THE INFINITIVE:

1) AFTER _____: agree, dare, decide, expect, fail, happen, hope, manage, offer, prepare, pretend, promise, refuse, seem, want, etc.

e.g. He decided **TO WAIT** for one more hour.

2) AFTER MANY _____: happy, right, wrong, careful, lucky, likely, etc.

e.g. I am so happy **TO SEE** you again!

3) TO SHOW _____:

e.g. I came to London **TO STUDY**. (because I wanted to study)

❖ WE USE THE GERUND:

1) AFTER _____: avoid, can't face, can't help, can't stand, don't mind, enjoy, fancy, feel like, finish, imagine, keep, postpone, practise, recommend, risk, spend time, suggest, etc.

e.g. Do you fancy **GOING** to the cinema tomorrow?

2) AFTER _____ AND PHRASAL VERBS:

e.g. Don't apologise for **ARRIVING** early. It's so great to see you!

He gave up READING the book after the first chapter.

3) INSTEAD OF A _____:

e.g. SWIMMING is very good exercise.

❖ **WE USE BOTH THE GERUND AND THE INFINITIVE WITH NO CHANGE IN MEANING AFTER THE FOLLOWING VERBS: start, begin, continue, _____:**

e.g. It started TO RAIN / RAINING.

3. **THERE ARE A FEW VERBS THAT CAN BE FOLLOWED BY BOTH THE GERUND AND THE INFINITIVE WITH A CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN MEANING. READ THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES AND SELECT THE CORRESPONDING MEANING FOR EACH VERB FORM:**

TRY

He tried ringing the bell, but there was no answer. _____

He tried to reach the next branch, but it was too high. _____

- a) The **action** was **done**, but it was done in vain – nothing happened as a result.
- b) The **action** was **not done**, it was impossible to do it.

STOP

They stopped talking when I walked into the room. _____

She stopped to admire the flowers. _____

- a) It's about **two different actions**: you stop from doing one to do the other one.
- b) It's about **one single action** that you don't do any more.

REMEMBER

I remember going to the circus when I was a child. _____

Did you remember to feed the fish? _____

- a) The second action refers to the **past**: you have an image of doing it in your mind – you can play it back like a video.
- b) The second action refers to the **immediate future or the present** – you do something which is in your mental list of things to do.

GO ON

He went on talking about his ex-girlfriend for hours. _____

The chairman welcomed the audience, then he went on to introduce the guest speakers. _____

- a) You **continue doing** the second activity for a certain amount of time.
- b) You **move on** from one activity to another.

SEE (watch, hear, feel)

She saw two men **crossing** the river, but she doesn't know who reached the shore first. _____

She saw two men **cross** the river. In spite of their strength, you could really tell they were completely exhausted when they reached the other side. _____

- a) She watched the entire action; the **action** was **complete** – she watched them cross from one side to the other.
- b) She watched just a part of an action in progress; the **action** was **incomplete** – they were already in the water when she saw them and she just looked at them for a second.