

# 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.