

Verbs with gerund or infinitive with a change of meaning:

Remember, forget and regret

+ infinitive: action at the same time or later:

Remember to give her the message.

I regret to tell you that we can't offer you the job.

I forgot to bring my book.

+ gerund: action earlier in time:

I remember giving her the message.

I regret telling her that.

I watered the plants and then I forgot doing it, so I watered them again!

Stop, go on

+ infinitive: different action

He went on to say that he wanted my advice.

I stopped to have a cuppa.

+ gerund: same action:

He went on repeating the question.

I stopped working at eight.

Try

+ infinitive: attempt

He tried to open the door, but it was stuck.

+ gerund: experiment

It was very hot in the room and there was no air conditioning, so he tried opening the door.

Can't help

+ infinitive: not be able to give a hand

Sorry, I can't help you to do your English homework. Do it yourself.

+ gerund: can't avoid

It was such a ridiculous situation that I couldn't help laughing.

Mean

+ infinitive: have the intention

I meant to call her, but I forgot.

+ gerund: imply

Growing up means accepting your responsibilities as an adult.

Verbs + -ing or to with a change of meaning

Complete the sentences with either the infinitive or the -ing form of the verbs in brackets.

1. Jane was never a very reliable friend. If I were you, I'd try _____ (forget) her.
If your clothes don't seem very white after you've washed them, try _____ (soak) them in a little bleach.
2. Please stop _____ (make) such a terrible noise!
After half an hour, we stopped _____ (make) a cup of tea.
3. I remember _____ (see) her in another French film and she was really good in that.
Did you remember _____ (call) Tim and tell him that we can't come on Saturday?
4. I started _____ (read) classical literature at the age of six.
Oh, look! It's starting _____ (rain).
5. He went on _____ (write) his essay, even though the noise started to get louder.
The lecture began very badly, but the professor went on _____ (make) some interesting points.
6. I couldn't help them _____ (find) what they were looking for as I was in too much of a hurry.
Harry looked so funny that I couldn't help _____ (laugh).
7. Buying your own house means _____ (take) responsibility for all the repairs.
I'm sure she means _____ (make) some big changes in this department.
8. I regret _____ (inform) you that you've all failed the exam.
She regrets _____ (buy) that computer. It keeps crashing all the time.

Infinitive and gerund: complex forms

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the infinitive or the gerund:

Example: I don't like _____ *being prescribed* _____ sleeping pills, even if I'm not sleeping well. (prescribe)

1. She hates _____ what to do. (tell)
2. It's not easy _____ when you're the boss. (like)
3. _____ German as a child, I find it easy to learn Dutch. (study)
4. By the time I'm 30, I hope _____ a family. (start)
5. She seems _____ a lot today. Do you think she's OK? (cough)
6. The burglar denied _____ the jewellery. (take)
7. I would like _____ your face when they told you you had won the competition! (see)
8. Verb patterns are so boring! I would prefer _____ something different right now. (do)