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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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)

LIVEWORKSHEETS