

GERUNDS vs. INFINITIVES ("doing" vs. "to do")

1. When do we use a gerund?

- a) instead of a noun – 1. e.g. enjoy, fancy, discuss, finish, mind, suggest, recommend, keep (on), avoid
- b) after certain verbs – 2. e.g. smoking, swimming
- c) after prepositions – 3. e.g. before, after; after the prepositions in phrasal verbs e.g. gave up

2. When do we use the "to-infinitive"?

- a) after certain adjectives – 1. e.g. decide, agree, help, plan, hope, learn, would like, promise, ask (sometimes it can be ask + object + to-infinitive)
- b) to show purpose (infinitive of purpose) – 2. e.g. happy, right, wrong, careful, lucky, likely
- c) after certain verbs – 3. answers the question "why?" e.g. "I went there to talk to him."

Choose the correct option.

We form the negative like this: **a. not + to infinitive (e.g. not to go)** / **b. to + not + infinitive (e.g. to not go)**

3. There are verbs that can be followed by either gerund or infinitive **without a change in meaning**.

e.g. start, continue, begin.

4. There are verbs that can be followed by either gerund or infinitive with a change in meaning

a) stop + gerund e.g. "He has stopped smoking" (he gave it up)	1. you stop one thing to do another
b) stop + to-infinitive e.g. "He stopped to have lunch."	2. you stop doing the second action
c) remember + gerund e.g. "I remember locking the door."	1. you have a memory of the past (and can play it back in your mind)
d) remember + to-infinitive e.g. "Did you remember to lock the door?"	2. remember you have to do something. It's on your "to do" list
e) try + to-infinitive e.g. "I tried to learn the new vocabulary but I simply could not remember it."	1. you did not succeed in doing what you wanted to
f) try + gerund e.g. "Have you tried learning new vocabulary to prepare for the exam?"	2. you try something as an experiment / to see if it can help you. So you did manage to do the action, it just didn't help
g) mean + gerund e.g. "Passing this exam means working a lot."	1. to intend to do something
h) mean + to-infinitive e.g. "I mean to work a lot to pass this exam."	2. it involves something
i) forget + gerund e.g. "I forgot giving you the invitation, which is why I'm surprised to see you here."	1. you don't remember the memory, but you did it
j) forget + to-infinitive e.g. "I forgot to give you the invitation, sorry you didn't come to the party."	2. you forgot to do something from your "to do" list
k) regret + gerund e.g. "I regret telling you my secret."	1. you are sorry about something you are about to do/say
l) regret + to-infinitive e.g. "I regret to tell you that your proposal has not been accepted."	2. you are sorry about something you did
m) go on + gerund e.g. "The band went on playing their music despite almost all of the audience leaving."	1. to continue doing an initial action
n) go on + to-infinitive e.g. "The band played their most popular hits, then went on to play some tracks from their recent album."	2. to change an activity