

Gerunds and infinitives

We use the gerund (verb + ing):

- After prepositions and phrasal verbs. *I'm good at cooking.*
- As the subject of a sentence. *Doing yoga has wonderful effects.*
- After some verbs: e.g. *hate, spend, don't mind, admit, avoid, deny, dislike, enjoy, feel like, finish, hate, keep, love, like, miss, practise, prefer, recommend, spend time, stop, suggest.*

We use infinitive + to:

- After adjectives. *I'm happy to work with you*
- To express a reason or a purpose. : *Liam is saving money to buy a new car.*
- After some verbs, e.g. *want, try, learn, (can't) afford, agree, decide, expect, forget, help, hope, learn, need, offer, plan, pretend, promise, refuse, remember, seem, would like,*

1. Choose the correct option

- 1 She's going to practise *giving* / to give her presentation.
- 2 My colleague isn't very good at *making* / to make decisions.
- 3 Did they promise *paying* / to pay you on time?
- 4 The government is trying to make it easier for companies *sacking* / to sack staff.
- 5 My brother regrets *not going* / not to go to university.
- 6 Can you remember *having* / to have your first job interview?
- 7 He really enjoys *working* / to work in a team.
- 8 Don't forget *signing* / to sign the application form.

c Complete the sentences with the gerund or the infinitive form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 I forgot to tell my boss I was going to the doctor's.
(tell)
- 2 My girlfriend told me _____ her outside the cinema. (meet)
- 3 _____ heavy weights can give you back problems. (lift)
- 4 It's difficult _____ a good job these days. (find)
- 5 They're afraid of _____ sacked. (be)
- 6 Why don't you try _____ to a smaller company?
(apply)
- 7 My colleague doesn't mind _____ me with my problems. (help)
- 8 I can't afford _____ a lower salary. (accept)