Verbs followed by gerunds

These verbs are followed by a gerund.

deny discuss finish mention practice quit resist suggest

These verbs are followed by an infinitive.

arrange claim decide demand deserve expect pretend refuse volunteer

Some common expressions are always followed by gerunds.

She **had fun / a good time** arranging the party.
He **has trouble / a tough time** getting his assignments in on time.
He**'s busy** cooking dinner right now.
She never **worries about** cleaning up after herself.

Some verbs take either a gerund or an infinitive, but the meaning of the sentence will be different.

I **stopped to drink** some coffee. (I ended one activity and began another.)
I **stopped drinking** coffee. (I don't do that activity anymore.)
I **stopped running** when I got tired. (I temporarily ended the activity.)

1 Complete these sentences with the gerund or infinitive form of the verb in parentheses.

1. I practiced ___*speaking*___ (speak) English with an American friend last night.
2. He volunteered _____ (help) at the hospital fund-raiser.
3. They discussed _____ (go) somewhere exotic on their vacation this year.
4. She's stopped _____ (talk) to him because they had a big argument.
5. My great-grandmother has trouble _____ (get) to our family reunions.
6. Laura always denies _____ (be) wild and crazy, but she really is.

2 Choose the best answer to complete the sentences.

My friend Shanda is pretty cool and very outgoing. She's usually busy (1) *to do* / (*doing*) a million things at once. Last week, I suggested (2) *to go* / *going* out for dinner and (3) *to see* / *seeing* a movie. We arranged (4) *to meet* / *meeting* at 7:00. Well, I know she doesn't worry about (5) *to be* / *being* on time, but she didn't show up until 7:30. At first, she said it took her a long time to finish (6) *to get* / *getting* ready. Then, after the movie, she couldn't resist (7) *to tell* / *telling* me what really happened. She was having such a good time (8) *to play* / *playing* video games with her brother that she forgot about our plans. It's a good thing I'm the laid-back type!