

GERUNDS vs. INFINITIVES (and verbs followed by both)

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

e.g. start, continue, begin.

It started to rain. = It started raining.

2. 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)
b) stop + to-infinitive e.g. "He stopped to have lunch."

1. you stop one thing to do another
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)
2. remember you have to do something. It's on your "to do" list

d) remember + to-infinitive e.g. "Did you remember to lock the door?"

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
2. it involves something

h) mean + to-infinitive e.g. "I mean to work a lot to pass this exam."

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 perform some covers of other artists' songs."

2. to change an activity