

Gerunds and infinitives

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THE BARE INFINITIVE

USES	After modals and after auxiliaries do/did: - You should come - You can swim - Did you finish your exam properly?
	After let's... (Us): - Let's go dancing and drinking.
	After make + noun/pronoun object: she makes me laugh very often.
	After would rather: I'd rather stay out during the weekend.
	After has better: I'd better go work now.
	After why not...? Why not call me Peter.
	After the verb HELP we can use the to-infinitive or the bare infinitive: - Could you help your sister (to) do her homework?
	After a verb of perception (see, watch, notice, feel hear) + object: - I didn't hear you come in
	When there is a series of infinitives after a verb: - I'd like to come and see you.

Verbs of perception + object + ing or the bare infinitive

Verbs of perception :(See, notice, look at, watch, feel, hear, listen to) can be followed by the -ing or the bare infinitive.

The verb smell can only be followed by the ing form

Verbs + infinitive	Verbs + gerund
agree, aim, appear, arrange, ask, attempt, beg, can't afford, can't wait, choose, claim, decide, demand, desire, expect, fail, guarantee, happen, help, hope, manage, offer, plan ,prepare, pretend, promise, prove, refuse, seem, tend, threaten, turn out , undertake, want, wish	admit, avoid, cant face can't help can't resist can't stand, carry on consider, delay, deny, detest, dislike, enjoy, excuse, fancy, finish, give up, imagine, involve, justify, keep {on), mention, mind, postpone, practise, put off, resent, risk, save, suggest ,tolerate.
Verbs + gerund or infinitive	
Some verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive, and the meaning remains the same: begin, propose, forbid, intend, start...	
Some verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive, but the meaning changes (stop, remember, forget...)	
<p>FORGET and REMEMBER We use <i>forget/remember doing</i> for memories of the past. We use <i>forget/remember to do</i> for actions someone is/was supposed to do (the remembering happens before the action). Peter won't forget calling you. I remember opening the door.</p> <p>GO ON We use <i>go on doing</i> when we continue doing something. We use <i>go on to do</i> when we move on to do something else. Sarah went on dancing all day. (did the same thing) The kind went on to say they did their homework.</p> <p>MEAN We use <i>mean doing</i> when one thing results in or involves another. We use <i>mean to do</i> to express an intention. This means leaving at 6.00. (involves) This means that we will have to leave at 6.00. (has a result)</p> <p>REGRET We use <i>regret doing</i> when we are sorry about something that happened in the past. Kate regretted not buying the house. We use <i>regret to inform/to tell</i> when we are giving bad news. This use is formal. I regret to tell you that you have failed this examination.</p> <p>STOP We use <i>stop doing</i> when we end and action. We use <i>stop to do</i> when we give the reason for stopping. I stopped going to evening classes. (gave up going) I stopped to buy some coffee. (in order to buy)</p>	

Verbs followed by the to-infinitive or gerund

VERB	INFINITIVE	GERUND
BE	Our plan is to open the restaurant next week -describes a complete event. - Normally after: plan, aim, intention, decision, and solution.	My favourite sport is skiing (the gerund behaves like a noun and describes an activity)
REMEMBER	Did you remember to post the letter I gave you yesterday. - Means: not to forget to do something.	I clearly remember phoning her the other day. - Means: remember something that happened in the past'.
FORGET	I mustn't forget to phone to phone her. - Means 'something you forgot to do'	I've never forgotten meeting her for the first time ten years ago - Means: an action in the past you still remember.
TRY	She is trying to get brown in the sun - Means 'make an effort to'	Why don't you try sleeping without an pillow? - Means 'make an attempt' or 'do something to see if it has an effect
REGRET	I regret to inform you that your application for the post has been rejected -Means `be sorry to communicate bad news.	I regret giving up my last job. - Means 'be sorry that one has done something
STOP	I stopped to get a newspapers I was driving to school. - Means 'pause in the order to do something else'	Will you please stop making that noise? - Means 'not continue'
GO ON	After an unsuccessful first year at college, she went on to get a first –class degree. - Move to something different	We went on talking all night - Continuo doing the same thing.
LIKE/ DISLIKE/ LOVE/ HATE	I like going for a walk before dinner. (I like the activity but I do not do it regularly)	I love to go for a walk before dinner - Describes a regular activity. I love it because I think is a good idea.
PREFER	I don't go out at the weekend. I prefer to stay in. I don't go out at the weekend. I prefer to staying in. The meaning of these sentences is very similar.	
BEGIN/ START/ CONTINUE	He began/started/continued shouting The meaning of theses sentences is very similar He began/started/continued to shout	
ADVISE/ ALLOW/ ENCOURAGE/ FORBID/ RECOMMEND	They recommend/advised us to leave They Advised leaving These verbs are usually followed by an object+ to-infinitive. Occasionally they have no object. In that case, they take a gerund.	
NEED	I need to get up early at the weekends It is necessary for me to do it.	The house needs cleaning. Need + gerund have a passive meaning. Someone needs to clean the car, doesn't matter who does it.

Preposition + Gerund

After preposition, we use the gerund.

CASES	EXAMPLE
Preposition + Gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After reading the book, he changed his point of view. - You should not have approved the letter without asking me first.
Adjective/noun+ prep + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are interested in going to the cinema - He has shown a lot interest in applying for this job.
Verb + preposition + gerund/phrasal verb + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They succeeded in getting the new contract - She apologised for disturbing her. - They carried on working.
Verb + obj.(Person/personal pronoun) + preposition + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We dissuaded him from writting the letter. - she accused him of cheating.
Verb + preposition + object pronoun or possessive adjective + gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They Agreed on us /ours sharing the expenses. - My boss complained about me/my arriving late last night.
NOTE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We use an object pronoun (me, us) more often than a possessive adjective (my, our) after a preposition. The use of a possessive adjective is rather formal. - "TO" may be part of a the to-infinitive, or it may be a preposition preceding a gerund. - 	



Adjective + to infinitive

We can use a to-infinitive after an adjective

CASES	EXAMPLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An adjective + to-infinitive often comes in this structure with it + be. - The subject can also be a person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's important to look in the mirror. It's lovely to see you. - It's quite safe to use the ladder. It was silly to make such a fuss. - I'm delighted to see you. We're ready to start now.
<p>Certain, sure and likely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We can use a to-infinitive after certain, sure, likely and unlikely. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - United are certain/sure to win. (= They will certainly win.) - Sarah is likely to be at work. (= She is probably at work.)
<p>For and of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After some adjectives we can use for + object + to-infinitive. - After an adjective describing how someone behaves (e.g. polite, silly), we can use of. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's important for drivers to take care. It isn't safe for children to play on ladders. - It was polite of Emma to write and thank us. (Emma was polite.) It was silly of me to forget the tickets. (I was silly.)

Gerund or Infinitive BUT With Changes of meaning

Some verbs can be followed either infinitive or gerund BUT with changes of meaning.

The most used are:

- **Forget + Infinitive:** to fail to do sth.
I forgot to tell him where the key was.
Forget + gerund: to do sth. and not recall it.
I forgot telling him where the key was but perhaps I did.
- **Need + Infinitive:** to have to do sth.
I need to cut the grass.
Need + gerund: somebody has to do it (impersonal)
The grass needs cutting.
- **Regret + Infinitive:** be sorry to (sth. unpleasant)
I regretted to tell you he had lied you.
Regret + gerund: to talk about a mistake in the past
I regretted telling you that it was your fault. Sorry.
- **Remember + Infinitive:** not to forget to do sth.
He remembered to buy the cake. Here you are.
Remember + gerund: to recall a memory
He remembered having the ticket in his pocket but now he can't find it.
- **Stop + Infinitive:** interrupt an action to do another.
She stopped to have lunch to open the door.
Stop + gerund: no to do sth. any more.
She stopped travelling when her baby was born.
- **Try + Infinitive:** make an effort to
I tried to finish the book but I fell asleep.
Try + gerund: experiment with doing sth.
I tried learning to cook but I'm not good at it.

Choose the best option to complete the sentence.

- 1) My brother Robert doesn't want to get fat so he stopped to eat / eating chocolate during work.
- 2) Patricia was happy because her boyfriend remembered to buy / buying her a birthday present.
- 3) We had a wonderful trip to Italy, and I'll never forget to visit / visiting Rome.
- 4) My parents usually try to avoid / avoiding our unpleasant neighbours.
- 5) I regret not to study / studying more last year.

Put the verbs in the correct form to complete the dialogues.

- 1) "Have you ever heard Madonna live in concert?"
"Yes, I remember hearing (hear) her in London. She was amazing!"
- 2) "Oh no, I haven't bought any bread."
"Why didn't you remember _____ (buy) any?"
- 3) "This violin doesn't sound very good."
"Do you think it needs _____ (repair)?"
- 4) "Is your sister studying at the conservatory?"
"No, she isn't. She tried _____ (get) in, but she didn't do well enough in the entrance exam."
- 5) "Do you remember The Windows' concert last year?"
"Yes, I'll never forget _____ (see) them. They were great!"
- 6) "Did you tell your brother that he plays terribly?"
"Yes, I really regret _____ (say) that to him now."
- 7) "How shall I cook the fish?"
"Anyway you want. Just try not _____ (burn) it".
- 8) "What's the best way to cook the fish?"
"Try to _____ (grill) it".

- 6) Why's the door open? I can distinctly remember to close / closing it.
- 7) I forgot to post / posting the letter yesterday.
- 8) After we'd been walking for an hour we stopped to drink / drinking some water.
- 9) You should stop to drink / drinking so much alcohol at the weekend: it's not good for you.
- 10) I regret to inform / informing you that we cannot accept your offer.
- 11) I'll never forget to hear / hearing the London Philharmonic Orchestra for the first time.

Verbs followed by gerund or infinitive

admit *	-ing
advise	to
afford	
agree *	
appear	
arrange	
ask	
avoid	
can't stand	
choose	
consider	
decide *	
demand	
deny *	
deserve	
dislike	
don't mind	
enjoy	
expect *	
fall	
fancy	
(fancy=) feel like	
finish	
give up	
keep	
help	
hope *	
invite	
imagine *	
learn *	
manage	
mean	
miss	
offer	
plan	
practice	
pretend *	
promise *	
recommend	
refuse	
reject	
risk	
seem *	
stop	
suggest *	
tend	
try	
wait	
want	
would like	

General Rule

Gerunds



Used when actions are:
real, concrete or completed

Infinitives



Used when actions are:
unreal, abstract or future

Complete these sentences below with the right form of the verbs in brackets: gerund (-ing) or infinitive (to). Then complete the list on the left.

(* means that this verb can also be followed by a **that clause**)

- Learning a foreign language means _____ (be) interested in another culture.
- My friend is giving up _____ (smoke) at last.
- Bob is very skilful. He has managed _____ (fix) his laptop himself.
- Doctors recommend _____ (sleep) eight hours a day.
- Reliable friends are always there for you. They will never fail _____ (help) to you.
- I don't mind _____ (do) the washing up.
- Mum, can I go out? I've already finished _____ (study).
- Tina hopes _____ (become) a prestigious engineer one day.
- Jerry is very angry. I've phoned him five times but he refuses _____ (speak) to me.
- The suspect arrested by the police denied _____ (rob) the bank. He said he had an alibi.
- He admitted _____ (make) a serious mistake and apologised.
- I can't stand _____ (wear) these awful glasses!
- The teacher agreed _____ (postpone) the exam.
- Peter pretended _____ (have) a stomach ache and left school early.

- Will promised his mum _____ (be) back at 11.
- Few people can afford _____ (buy) the trendiest smartphone.
- Fred chose _____ (work) on Saturday instead of on Friday.
- Angelina imagined _____ (get) an Oscar for her last movie.
- We've planned _____ (fly) to Denmark this Christmas.
- Tom suggested _____ (spend) a couple of weeks on Majorca.
- Amanda rejected _____ (eat) the soup because it was salty.
- People shouldn't risk _____ (ride) a motorbike without wearing a helmet.
- I really miss _____ (chat) with you every day.
- Mum asked me _____ (lay) the table.
- Mr. Johnson tends _____ (lie) about his age. He's so flirty!
- You should avoid _____ (shout). It's too late!
- He kept _____ (talk) for hours.
- Do you fancy _____ (dance)?
- If you try _____ (work) a bit harder, I'm sure you'll pass.
- He will arrange _____ (book) a room at the best hotel.
- He seems _____ (be) worried.

- 32) I wouldn't advise _____ (buy) a used car.
- 33) I want _____ (find) a better job because I need some extra money.
- 34) The policeman offered _____ (help) me when someone mugged my bag.
- 35) I feel like _____ (go) out for dinner tonight. Do you fancy coming with me?
- 36) Matt has learned _____ (parachute). He will jump tomorrow for the first time!
- 37) Christian considers _____ (move) to London in order to improve his English.
- 38) I'm very excited. I can't wait _____ (play) this new game.
- 39) He practiced _____ (run) every afternoon in the park for the marathon.
- 40) She expected _____ (see) her favourite singer after the show but she couldn't.
- 41) He would like _____ (learn) to fly a helicopter.
- 42) My aunt invited me _____ (spend) a week in Italy.
- 43) Don't worry. Kelly appears _____ (know) what she's doing.
- 44) They decided _____ (change) the colour of their room.
- 45) Many people dislike _____ (wait) at the traffic lights.
- 46) He deserved _____ (be) punished for driving too fast.
- 47) The boss demanded _____ (arrive) on time to his employees.
- 48) Beth helped the children _____ (do) their homework.
- 49) The two friends enjoyed _____ (go) shopping.
- 50) Please stop _____ (make) so much noise! I'm trying to sleep.

Gerund or Infinitive Without Changes of meaning

Some verbs can be followed either infinitive or gerund with little or no change of meaning.

The most used are:

- **Verbs of starting or continuing:**
begin, start, continue, intend, propose
(When they are the continuous form, they are usually in the infinitive)
- **Verbs of liking or not liking:**
hate, love, prefer, like, not bear
(infinitive is preferred when talking in general)

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- **Need** + infinitive: to have to do sth.
Need + gerund: somebody has to do it (impersonal)
- **Regret** + infinitive: be sorry to (sth. unpleasant)
Regret + gerund: to talk about a mistake in the past
- **Remember** + infinitive: not to forget to do sth.
Remember + gerund: to recall a memory
- **Stop** + infinitive: interrupt an action to do another.
Stop + gerund: no to do sth. any more.
- **Try** + infinitive: make an effort to
Try + gerund: experiment with doing sth.

Complete the following sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use the infinitive or the gerund depending on the meaning of each sentence.

- 1) He is angry because I forgot _____ (meet) him.
(I didn't meet him because I forgot to do it).
- 2) He is angry because I forgot _____ (meet) him.
(I don't have the memory of meeting him before)
- 3) I regret _____ (promise) to help you.
(I'm sorry that I made the promise)
- 4) I regret _____ (tell) you that we can't hire you.
(I'm telling you now, and I'm sorry)
- 5) She remembered _____ (visit) her grandmother.
(She didn't forget to visit her)
- 6) She remembered _____ (visit) her grandmother.
(She had memories of this time)
- 7) I stopped _____ (call) you.
(I stopped this activity. Maybe we had a fight)
- 8) I stopped _____ (call) you.
(I interrupted another action in order to call you)
- 9) I tried _____ (open) the window.
(I attempted this action but didn't succeed)
- 10) I tried _____ (open) the window.
(This was one option I chose. Maybe the room was hot)