

GERUND OR INFINITIVE

There are verbs which are followed by a gerund and verbs which are followed by an infinitive. Study the following lists and study them before doing the exercises.

These verbs are followed by a gerund (ing noun):

admit, advise, allow, anticipate, appreciate, avoid, can't help, carry on, complete, consider, defend, delay, deny, despise, detest, discuss, dislike, enjoy, fancy, feel, like, finish, give up, imagine, insist on, involve, justify, keep (on), mention, mind, miss, not mind, postpone, practise, put off, recall, recollect, recommend, reject, report, resent, resist, risk, save, suggest, tolerate, understand

These verbs are followed by to + infinitive:

afford, agree, aim, appear, arrange, ask, attempt, care, choose, claim, dare, decide, demand, deserve, expect, fail, happen, help, hesitate, hope, intend, learn, long, manage, need, offer, plan, prepare, pretend, proceed, promise, refuse, seem, swear, tend, threaten, try, turn out, vow, wait, want, wish, would like

These verbs can be followed by either a gerund or to + infinitive:

begin, bother, can't bear, can't stand, cease, continue, forget*, go on*, hate, intend, like, love, mean*, prefer, propose, regret*, remember*, start, stop*, try

**These verbs change their meaning depending on the form that follows them.*

If these verbs are followed by a gerund, the gerund refers to an action which happened before the main verb.

If these verbs are followed by an infinitive, the infinitive refers to an action that happened at the same time or after the main verb.

GERUND OR INFINITIVE 2

Fill in either a gerund or an infinitive.

1. After two weeks of discussion we have agreed _____ you the job. (give)
2. You would do well to avoid _____ the motorway this morning. (take)
3. There would be an outcry if we publicly discussed _____ the National Health Service. (privatise)
4. It was tough, but Polly finally admitted _____ the jewellery. (steal)
5. If Harold had disliked _____ the apple pie, I wouldn't have offered him any more. (eat)
6. My daughter sometimes asks me _____ her with her homework. (help)
7. I think you will really enjoy _____ my parents on Friday. (meet)
8. It can't have been easy for Barry to give up _____. (smoke)
9. I hate _____ next to somebody who is eating an apple noisily. (sit)
10. Fiona had hoped _____ to university in the summer, but now her dream had disappeared. (go)
11. Can you imagine _____ a car on Sunday and just driving to the coast? (hire)
12. Holly had been learning _____ Braille since the beginning of term. (read)
13. Did you manage _____ the cake decorations that I asked for? (buy)
14. If I were you, I wouldn't mind _____ Marina a few books. (lend)
15. By the end of the holiday we couldn't afford _____ again. (eat out)
16. Will you have practised _____ this piece on the trumpet by the time we meet again next week? (play)
17. Alicia likes _____ in bed for a while before she goes to sleep. (read)
18. I much preferred _____ Manchester compared to Huddersfield. (visit)
19. Charlie has been pretending _____ an urchin from the film *Oliver* all morning. (be)
20. If you would like _____, I would be happy to accompany you. (dance)