6 Minute Grammar: Verb patterns
Do you know all four?

When is a verb followed by a gerund, and when is it followed by an infinitive? If it can be followed by either, does the meaning change?

Alice, Finn and Catherine discuss these questions and more in this unit's 6 Minute Grammar.

Here's a question for you to think about while you listen. All the four verbs of liking: like, love, prefer and hate can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive. But does the meaning change...? Listen to the programme to find out.

Alice: Hello. Welcome to 6 Minute Grammar with me, Alice.
Finn: And me, Finn. Hello.
Alice: Today we're talking about **verb patterns / future tenses**.
Finn: Yes, we're looking at what happens when we use **two / three** verbs together in English.
Alice: We'll be looking at **four / five** verb patterns – and there's a quiz at the end of the programme – so listen carefully!
Finn: So, on with the show! Our first pattern is: **verb plus infinitive / verb plus gerund**.
Alice: A **gerund / infinitive** is the i-n-g form of a verb – words like **seeing / to see, complaining / complain** and **give / giving** are all gerunds.
Finn And here's Catherine. Hello!
Catherine: Hello.
Finn: To give us some examples of the pattern verb plus gerund. Catherine.
Catherine: I really enjoyed **to see / seeing** Rachel again last night. Jackie kept **complaining / complain** so I went home. Would you mind **to give / giving** me a lift to the station?
Finn: Thanks Catherine. So we had the verb **enjoy** plus the gerund _____.
Alice: We had **keep** plus _____.
Finn: And the verb **mind** plus the gerund _____.
Alice: Good. Enjoy **to see / seeing**; keep **complain / complaining**; mind **to giving / giving**. Other verbs that can be followed. by gerunds include _____, _____, _____, and _____.
Finn: So I can say " *I*_____ _____ *a list of verbs that take gerunds".*
Alice: Very good, good example.
Finn: Thank you.
Alice: Now for the second pattern **verb plus infinitive / v erb plus -ing**. An **gerund / infinitive** is the word to plus a base verb, for example: **to see / seeing, to drive / drive, to study / to studying**. Some examples please Catherine?
Catherine: I really want **to see / seeing** the football tonight. My brother's learning **to drive / drive**. Mario's hoping **to study / to studying** medicine.
Finn: So that's: want **seeing / to see**, learning **drive / to drive** , hoping. **to study / to studying** . Other verbs in this group are _____, _____, _____ and _____. Now for the third pattern, these verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive – **without / with** changing the meaning. Some examples please, Catherine.
Catherine: I've started _____ Arabic - and my boyfriend's **started** _____ French.

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Finn: So started learning and started to learn have more or less the same meaning. Now, another example please?
Catherine: Snow will continue _____ in the mountains and temperatures will continue _____ throughout the night.
Finn: So, continue to fall and continue falling have **a different / the same** meaning.
Alice: OK. Time for pattern 4.
Finn: Yes - and this one's a bit tricky. With some verbs, you can use either a gerund or an infinitive afterwards, but...
Alice: and it's a big but...
Finn: Yes... the meaning **changes / doesn't change** from gerund to infinitive.
Alice: So if I say "I stopped **drinking / drink** coffee last week"....
Finn: Well, I probably wouldn't believe you...
Alice: Yes. Well, this means I drank coffee regularly in the past, but last week, I decided to give up coffee. I completely stopped and now I never drink coffee.
Finn: But, if I say "on my way home yesterday, I stopped **having / to have** a cup of coffee..."
Alice: This means that yesterday you interrupted your journey and you went into a cafe for a cup of coffee.
Finn: So, very different meanings.
Alice: Yes. Here's an example, with the verb remember:
Catherine: We remembered _____ the door. We remembered _____ the door.
Finn OK, in the first one, we formed a picture in our mind of us closing the door. The second example means we didn't forget to close the door.
Alice: And it's time for a quiz. Question one. Which is correct: **a) They decided taking the train – or b) They decided to take the train.**
Finn: OK, so this is: b) They decided to take the train. After _____ we need _____.
Alice: Number 2, **a) Catherine hates cooking in the evening. b) Catherine hates to cook** in the evening.
Finn: And that's a trick question. They are actually both correct because after hate, you can use **either / neither** a gerund or an infinitive.
Alice: Yes, you can. Finally, number 3 is it a) **Do you want to go for a coffee? or b) Do you want going for a coffee?**
Finn: This one is a) Do you want to go for a coffee? Because after want you need _____ but Alice?
Alice: Yes?
Finn: You said you'd stopped **drinking / to drink** coffee?!
Alice: Oh; yes I did.
Finn: Got you there.
Alice: You did. Never mind. Thanks for listening and don't forget - there's more about this on our website at bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Grammar.
Both: Bye.
Finn: Time for a coffee?
Alice: Maybe later.
Both: Bye.

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