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Stop, try, forget and remember

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a People should stop spending their money on the latest fashions.
b People should stop to spend their money on the latest fashions.
- 2 a The government tried stopping this plan but was not successful.
b The government tried to stop this plan but was not successful.

Some verbs have a different meaning when they are followed by *-ing* or *to + infinitive*.

Stop + -ing = to stop an activity. *Stop + to + infinitive* = to stop a previously mentioned activity in order to do something else. Compare:

*The boys **stopped playing**.*

*The boys were playing and they **stopped to watch** a large truck go past. (= they stopped playing in order to watch the truck)*

Try + -ing = to attempt to solve a problem by doing something. *Try + to + infinitive* = to attempt and fail to do something. Compare:

*I **tried turning** the tap but the water still poured out. (I managed to turn the tap)*

*I **tried to turn** the tap but it was too old and rusty. (I couldn't turn the tap)*

Forget / remember + -ing = thinking back to a special/significant time in the past.

Forget / remember + to + infinitive = thinking about something that must be done in the future. Compare:

*I **remember seeing** a bull running down the High Street. (this happened in the past)*

*I must **remember to watch** the news tonight. (first I must remember, then I will do it)*

2 Correct the mistake below.

I lost the race because I had to stop tying my shoelace.



I lost the race because

3 Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 Nowadays many people want to stop too hard and enjoy life. (*work*)
- 2 Did you remember candles for the birthday cake? (*buy*)
- 3 The burglar tried the window with a knife but couldn't get in. (*open*)
- 4 Don't forget a postcard to your grandmother when you're away. (*send*)
- 5 At 12 o'clock every day the builders stopped a lunch break. (*have*)
- 6 I will never forget the pyramids on our trip to Egypt. (*visit*)
- 7 The cook tried more salt but the soup was still too bland. (*add*)
- 8 I remember across the road but I have no idea how I ended up in hospital. (*walk*)