

Infinitive or gerund

We use gerunds (verb + ing):

- After **certain verbs** - I **enjoy singing**
- After prepositions - I drank a cup of coffee **before leaving**
- As the subject or object of a sentence - **Swimming** is good exercise

We use 'to' + infinitive:

- After **certain verbs** - We **decided to leave**
- After many adjectives - It's **difficult to get** up early
- To show purpose - I came to London **to study** English

We use the bare infinitive (the infinitive without 'to'):

- After **modal verbs** - I can **meet** you at six o'clock
- After 'let', 'make' and (sometimes) 'help' - The teacher let us **leave** early
- After some verbs of perception (see, watch, hear, notice, feel, sense) - I watched her **walk** away
- After expressions with 'why' - why **go** out the night before an exam?

Verbs that take the gerund or 'to + infinitive' with examples and exercises:

enjoy	I enjoyed living in France	mind	I don't mind coming early
fancy	I fancy seeing a film tonight	suggest	He suggested staying at the Grand Hotel
discuss	We discussed going on holiday together	recommend	They recommended meeting earlier
dislike	I dislike waiting for buses	keep	He kept working , although he felt ill
finish	We've finished preparing for the meeting	avoid	She avoided talking to her boss

Common verbs followed by 'to' and the infinitive:

agree	She agreed to give a presentation at the meeting
ask*	I asked to leave early / I asked him to leave early
decide	We decided to go out for dinner
help*	He helped to clean the kitchen / he helped his flatmate to clean the kitchen
plan	She plans to buy a new flat next year
hope	I hope to pass the exam
learn	They are learning to sing
want*	I want to come to the party / I want him to come to the party
would like*	I would like to see her tonight / I would like you to see her tonight
promise	We promised not to be late

Complete with gerund or infinitive

- a. I don't fancy (go) out tonight.
- b. She avoided (tell) him about her plans.
- c. I would like (come) to the party with you.
- d. He enjoys (have) a bath in the evening.
- e. She kept (talk) during the film.
- f. I am learning (speak) English.
- g. Do you mind (give) me a hand?
- h. She helped me (carry) my suitcases.
- i. I've finished (cook) - come and eat!.
- j. He decided (study) biology.
- k. I dislike (wait).
- l. He asked (come) with us.
- m. I promise (help) you tomorrow.
- n. We discussed (go) to the cinema, but in the end we stayed at home.
- o. She agreed (bring) the pudding to the dinner.
- p. I don't recommend (take) the bus - it takes forever!.
- q. We hope (visit) Amsterdam next month.
- r. She suggested (go) to the museum.
- s. They plan (start) college in the autumn.
- t. I don't want (leave) yet.

Special Infinitive or gerunds

<http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/gerunds-and-infinitives-verbs-4.html>

Like

I like to go to the cinema.

I like going to the cinema.

- a. Which of these activities do I do regularly?
- b. Which is an activity I would like to do more often, but don't?

Hate

I hate eating broccoli.

I would hate you to miss my presentation.

- a. Which don't I like doing?
- b. Which is something that I am not going to like in the future?

Remember

I remember going to see Star Wars when I was 13.

Remember to get tickets for the premiere of the new Star Wars film. They are going to sell out fast.

- a. Which was something I did in the past and remember?
- b. What do I have to do in the future?

Stop

Stop smoking, it is bad for you!

I was going to school when I stopped to have a quick coffee.

- a. Which is not good for you?
- b. In which did I do two activities?

Start

He started jumping up and down when the team scored.

He started to drive when he remembered he had left the lights on.

- a. Which is interactive?
- b. Which was a result of another action?

Try

I tried to tell Jane that her boyfriend was a cheat, but she didn't listen.

If you can't do the exercise, try looking it up on Google.

- a. In which case do you have options?
- b. Which case was futile?

Mean

I meant to come, but I forgot.

No, I don't mean doing school work now, I mean going to the cinema!

- a. Which is “the meaning of”?
- b. Which is a synonym of “intention”?

Regret

I regret telling you you were an idiot.

I regret to tell you you have failed the exam.

- a. What did I do that was bad?
- b. What am I going to do that is bad?

Complete with gerund or infinitive

- a. I couldn't sleep so I tried (drink) some hot milk.
- b. She tried (reach) the book on the high shlef but she was too small.
- c. They tried (get) to the party on time but the bus was delayed.
- d. We tried (open) the window, but it was so hot outside it didn't help.
- e. He tried (get) a job in a newspaper firm but they wouldn't hire him.
- f. He tried (get) a job in a newspaper firm but he still wasn't satisfied.
- g. You should stop (smoke) , it's not good for your health.
- h. We stopped (study) because we were tired.
- i. They will stop (have) lunch at twelve.
- j. We stopped (have) a rest because we were really sleepy.
- k. Oh no! I forgot (buy) milk.
- l. Please don't forget (pick up) some juice on your way home.
- m. I forget (lock) the door, but I'm sure I must have locked it.
- n. Have we studied this before? I've forgotten (learn) it.
- o. Please remember (bring) your homework.
- p. I remember (go) to the beach as a child.
- q. Finally I remembered (bring) your book! Here it is.
- r. Do you remember (eat) steak in that little restaurant in Rome?
- s. I regret (tell) you the train has been delayed.
- t. I regret (tell) Julie my secret; now she has told everyone.