

Unit 7: VERB PATTERNS

GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES

We use **gerunds** (verb + ing):

- After certain verbs: I enjoy *singing*.
- After prepositions :
I drank a cup of coffee *before leaving*.
- Instead of nouns as the subject or object:
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 express purpose
I went 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 INFINITIVE WITHOUT A CHANGE IN MEANING

There are some verbs that can be used with either gerunds or infinitives and the meaning stays the same: *begin, continue, hate, like, love, prefer, start*.

VERBS THAT TAKE THE INFINITIVE OR GERUND WITH A CHANGE IN MEANING:

1. Remember + gerund

This is when you remember something that has happened in the past. You have a memory of it, like being able to see a movie of it in your head.

I *remember going* to the beach when I was a child.
(= I have a memory of going to the beach).

Remember + to + infinitive

This is when you think of something that you need to do. (And usually, you then do the thing).

I *remembered to buy* milk.
(= I was walking home and the idea that I needed milk came into my head, so I bought some).

2. Forget + gerund

It's when you forget about a memory, something that you've done in the past.

I told my brother that we'd spent Christmas at Granny's house in 1985, but he'd *forgotten going* there.

Forget + to + infinitive

This is the opposite of remember + to + infinitive. It's when you want to do something, but you forget about it.

I *forgot to call* my mother.
(= I wanted to call my mother, but when it was a good time to call her, I forgot.)

3. Try + gerund

This is when you do something as an experiment. The thing you do is not difficult, but you want to see if doing it will have the result that you want.

She *tried giving up* chocolate, but it didn't help her lose weight. (It was easy for her to give up chocolate. She gave it up to see if it would help her lose weight, but it didn't).

Try + to + infinitive

This is when the thing you do itself is difficult. In the present tense or future tense, this means you might not succeed in doing it. In the past tense, it means that you made an effort to do the thing, but you did not succeed.

I'll try to carry the suitcase, but it looks too heavy for me.

4. Stop + gerund

When we stop doing something it means the verb in the gerund is the thing that we stop. It can mean 'stop forever' or 'stop at that moment'.

I stopped working when I was expecting a baby. (Working is the thing I stopped).

Stop + to + infinitive

In this case, we stop something else in order to do the verb in the infinitive.

I stopped to eat lunch. (I stopped something else, maybe working or studying, because I wanted to eat lunch).

5. Regret + gerund

This is when you are sorry about something you did in the past and you wish you hadn't done it.

I regret going to bed so late. I'm really tired today.

Regret + to + infinitive

We use this construction when we are giving someone bad news, in quite a formal way. The verb is almost always something like 'say' or 'tell' or 'inform'.

I regret to tell you that the train has been delayed.

VERBS THAT TAKE THE GERUND:

- admit
He *admitted cheating* on the test.
- adore
I *adore* dancing.
- anticipate
I *anticipated arriving* late.
- appreciate
I *appreciated her helping* me.
- avoid
She *avoided talking* to her boss.
- can't stand
He *can't stand her smoking* in the office.
- can't help
He *can't help talking* so loudly.
- complete
He *completed renovating* the house.
- consider
She *considered moving* to New York.
- delay
He *delayed doing* his taxes.
- deny
He *denied committing* the crime.
- discuss
We *discussed going* on holiday together.
- dislike
I *dislike waiting* for buses.
- enjoy
I *enjoyed living* in France.
- fancy
I *fancy seeing* a film tonight.
- finish
We've *finished preparing* for the meeting.
- imagine
He *imagines working* there one day.
- involve
The job *involves travelling* to Japan once a month.

- keep
He *kept working*, although he felt ill.
- loathe
I *loathe doing* housework.
- mention
He *mentioned going* to that college.
- mind
I *don't mind coming* early.
- miss
She *misses living* near the beach.
- postpone
He *postponed returning* to Paris
- practise
She *practised singing* the song.
- recall
Tom *recalled using* his credit card at the store
- recommend
They *recommended meeting* earlier.
- report
He *reported her stealing* the money.
- risk
He *risked being* caught.
- suggest
He *suggested staying* at the Grand Hotel.
- tolerate
I *tolerated her talking*.
- understand
I *understand his quitting*.

VERBS THAT TAKE THE INFINITIVE:

- advise
I *advise you to study* for the test.
- afford
We can't *afford to go* on holiday.
- agree
She *agreed to give* a presentation at the meeting.
- allow
He *allowed me to go* to the bathroom.

- appear
His health *appeared to be* better.
- arrange
Naomi *arranged to stay* with her cousin in Miami.
- ask
I *asked to leave* early / I *asked him to leave* early.
- beg
She *begged me to help* her.
- choose
I *chose to help*.
- claim
She *claimed to be* a princess.
- dare
I *dare you to eat* that.
- decide
We *decided to go* out for dinner.
- demand
He *demanded to speak* to Mr. Harris.
- deserve
He *deserves to go* to jail.
- encourage
She *encouraged me to take* the job.
- expect
They *expect to arrive* early.
- force
He *was forced to go* back.
- forget
Students often *forget to do* the homework.
- help
He *helped to clean* the kitchen
- hope
I *hope to pass* the exam.
- intend
We *intend to visit* you next spring.
- invite
I *was invited to come* to the party.
- learn
They are *learning to sing*.
- manage
He *managed to open* the door without the key.
- mean
Did you *mean to leave* the door unlocked?
- need
I *need to go* home early.
- order
The policeman *ordered me to step* out of the car.
- offer
Frank *offered to drive* us to the supermarket.
- persuade
She *persuaded us to read* the book.
- plan
She *plans to buy* a new flat next year.
- prepare
Teachers *prepared the students to take* the test.
- pretend
The child *pretended to be* a monster.
- promise
We *promised not to be* late.
- refuse
The guard *refused to let* them enter the building.
- remind
She *reminded me to buy* milk.
- seem
Nancy *seemed to be* disappointed.
- tell
She *told me to go* home.
- tend
He *tends to be* a little shy.
- wait
She *waited to buy* a movie ticket.
- want
I *want him to come* to the party.
- warn
Mike *warned me not to be* late.
- would hate / like / love / prefer
I'd *hate to be* late / I'd *hate you to be* late.