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## Gerunds and *to*-infinitives



### Usage

When we have two verbs in one sentence, we often use the gerund or *to*-infinitive form of a verb after the main verb. Some verbs are followed only by gerunds, and some only by *to*-infinitives. Certain verbs can be followed by either gerunds or *to*-infinitives.

- e.g. I finished reading the novel two weeks ago.
- e.g. Sally attempted to cook dinner for her mum on Mother's Day.
- e.g. It began raining / to rain at around 3 pm.



### Part 1 Verb + Gerund

We use gerunds after certain verbs like:

enjoy	advise	keep	miss	finish
quit	suggest	mind	dislike	postpone
avoid	can't help	involve	practise	risk

- e.g. You should avoid touching Joe because he has got chickenpox.
- e.g. I can't help laughing at that stupid joke.
- e.g. I suggested not taking the bus to get there.
- e.g. Does the new policy involve not allowing people to smoke in public places?



**We** use gerunds after phrasal verbs. Here are some examples:

Phrasal verb	Example
carry on	Even though the lights are turned off, they <u>carry on working</u> .
end up	Anna ate too much and <u>ended up getting</u> a stomach ache.
give up	Why did you <u>give up making</u> the model plane?
keep on	Someone <u>kept on knocking</u> on my door.
put off	Negative comments <u>put Kara off chasing</u> her dreams.

### Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs given. Each verb can be used ONCE only.

- not bark      crash      eat      gain      search      pitch  
gaze      not go      pack      stare      take

1. 'Do you mind \_\_\_\_\_?' the thief asked the dog, as he carried on \_\_\_\_\_ for valuables in the house.



2. Marcus couldn't quit \_\_\_\_\_ potato chips. He ended up \_\_\_\_\_ five pounds.

3. Cindy can't help \_\_\_\_\_ affectionately at James every time he walks by. She keeps on \_\_\_\_\_ at him until he disappears from view.



4. The flight postponed \_\_\_\_\_ off because of the typhoon. The pilot did not want to risk \_\_\_\_\_ the plane.

5. Lucas: I suggest \_\_\_\_\_ camping in this stormy weather.

Ken: What a pity! I've already finished \_\_\_\_\_ my rucksack. I even practised \_\_\_\_\_ a tent yesterday.



## Part 2 Verb + To-infinitive

We use *to*-infinitives after certain verbs like:

agree	choose	decide	hope	expect	seem
plan	promise	want	refuse	need	wish
afford	fail	manage	offer	pretend	prepare

e.g. Mr Johnson cannot afford **to lose** his job.

e.g. Little Larry failed **to climb** the stairs by himself.

e.g. The students pretended **not to be** sleepy in class.

e.g. The customers wish **not to wait** for long in the queue.



### Educator's Tips



**We** need to put an **object** and a **to-infinitive** after verbs that are used transitively, like *ask*, *want* and *teach*.

Object

To-infinitive

e.g. Miss Chan *asked* me to help her.

## Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs given. Each verb can be used **ONCE** only.

bake    bang    buy    earn    watch    pay    not spend    throw    achieve

- We are planning \_\_\_\_\_ Tom a surprise birthday party next month. I have asked Hilary \_\_\_\_\_ a big birthday cake for him.
- Nathan is so poor that he cannot afford \_\_\_\_\_ the rent. He barely manages \_\_\_\_\_ enough money to buy food.
- Charles: Did you see the clown pretended \_\_\_\_\_ his head against the door?  
Keith: Yes! Many children enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- Jackie wishes \_\_\_\_\_ a new phone, so she has decided \_\_\_\_\_ much money from now on. She expects \_\_\_\_\_ her saving target before May.





## Part 3 Verb + Gerund / To-infinitive

We use either a gerund or a *to*-infinitive after certain verbs. The two have **no major difference in meaning**. Some examples of these verbs are:

begin	love	like	continue	hate
start	prefer	can't bear	propose	can't stand

**e.g.** Will Mr Peters continue writing / **to write** stories?

**e.g.** The staff can't stand working / **to work** overtime for a week.

**e.g.** I prefer not going / **not to go** out at weekends.

**e.g.** The boss proposed not giving / **not to give** a pay rise to the staff this year.

### Exercise 3.1

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given. Each verb can be used **ONCE** only.

ask	attract	perform	practise	make	not see
socialise	rehearse	yawn	watch	write	

- Mrs Bay can't bear \_\_\_\_\_ the bad news on TV. The tragic images seem \_\_\_\_\_ her very upset.
- Last week, Zach suggested \_\_\_\_\_ a short drama in the upcoming talent show. He has finished \_\_\_\_\_ the script now. Mr Matthews advises \_\_\_\_\_ the play as soon as possible. He proposes \_\_\_\_\_ for four hours a week.
- Tim: Did you manage \_\_\_\_\_ Jennifer out on a date last night?  
Paul: No. I failed \_\_\_\_\_ her attention. She pretended \_\_\_\_\_ me as if I was invisible the whole night. Then, she began \_\_\_\_\_ right after I said 'hello' to her.  
Tim: That's bad. I think you need to practise \_\_\_\_\_ with girls more.



We use a gerund or a *to*-infinitive after the following verbs. The two have completely different meanings:

Verb	Gerund	To-infinitive
remember / forget	To remember / forget something that happened in the past <b>e.g.</b> I <u>remembered</u> <b>seeing</b> your bag in the classroom.	To remember / forget something that we need to do <b>e.g.</b> I <u>remember</u> <b>to bring</b> my school bag to school.
regret	To feel sorry about something we have done <b>e.g.</b> The boy <u>regretted</u> <b>stealing</b> a candy bar from the shop.	To talk about bad news <b>e.g.</b> We <u>regret</u> <b>to tell</b> you that the coupon has expired.
stop	To stop an action <b>e.g.</b> The students <u>stopped</u> <b>talking</b> when the bell rang.	To stop the current action in order to start another action <b>e.g.</b> Don <u>stopped</u> <b>to pick up</b> a coin.
try	To do something to see what the result will be <b>e.g.</b> I <u>tried</u> <b>eating</b> sashimi once. I didn't like it.	To make an effort to do something <b>e.g.</b> I <u>tried</u> <b>to eat</b> all the dishes but my stomach was too full.

### Exercise 3.2

Becky is reading a story. Complete the story with the correct form of the verbs given. Each verb can be used ONCE only.

help be do improve indulge take send sweep reflect

#### Changes of Lola

Lola was a lazy and forgetful girl. She never tried (1) \_\_\_\_\_ with the housework. She could not remember (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the floor even once in her life. She always forgot to do her homework as well.

To stop Lola (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in laziness, her parents decided (4) \_\_\_\_\_ her to a boarding school. The teachers there encouraged Lola to try (5) \_\_\_\_\_ up responsibilities. She began (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on her past behaviour. She regretted (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a slack girl and she changed her bad habits. Since then, her self-care ability continued (8) \_\_\_\_\_. She would never forget (9) \_\_\_\_\_ her assignments any more.

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## Unit Recap

Mia is reading a magazine article and she has found some mistakes about the verbs. Underline the mistakes in the numbered lines and write the correct words in the spaces provided.

**Leisure Weekly**

June Issue

### Fun with Beachcombing

1. What do you like do at beaches? Apart from sunbathing and
2. swimming, have you ever tried comb at a beach? Beachcombing
3. involves search along beaches for interesting objects.
4. Beachcombers prefer practise beachcombing on big beaches.
5. Sometimes, they manage finding seashells, rocks, sea glass and
6. coral pieces. Many parents love go beachcombing with their children during the holidays.
7. As long as you don't mind to stay outdoors, beachcombing
8. is a great leisure activity for those who can't afford pay for
9. entertainment. Some even end up make money out of it. Ada is
10. a good example. She began collect objects on beaches for sale
11. a year ago. 'People seem liking my handmade seashell wind
12. chimes. I'm planning turning it into a real bussiness!' said Ada.
13. Below are three points that Ada suggests to follow when you go
14. beachcombing. First, don't forget wearing shoes with thick soles
15. as you won't want to risk get hurt by
16. sharp objects. Second, avoid to disturb any animals at the beaches. Remember
17. not take a seashell with a creature living
18. in it. Lastly, never try doing it when the weather is bad or the tides are high.



1. doing / to do
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
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15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_



#### Vocabulary:

wind chimes (n.): an arrangement of shells or pieces of metal or wood that make ringing sounds when moved by the wind

sole (n.): the bottom part of a shoe