

## Verbs Followed by Gerunds and Infinitives

In English, if you want to follow a verb with another action, you must use a gerund or infinitive (or sometimes the base verb). For example:

*We resumed talking. (gerund – verb + ing)*

*I want to see a movie. (infinitive – to + base verb)*

There are certain verbs that can only be followed by one or the other, and these verbs should be memorized. Some verbs, however, can be followed by either gerund or infinitive with little or no change in their meanings. Finally, some verbs can be followed by either form, but they have a different meaning in either case.

- Common verbs followed by a gerund

Example: *He misses playing with his friends.*

abhor	acknowledge	admit
advise	allow	anticipate
appreciate	avoid	be worth
can't help	celebrate	confess
consider	defend	delay
detest	discontinue	discuss
dislike	dispute	dread
endure	enjoy	escape
evade	explain	fancy
fear	feel like	feign
finish	forgive	give up (stop)
keep (continue)	keep on	mention
mind (object to)	miss	necessitate
omit	permit	picture
postpone	practice	prevent
put off	recall	recollect
recommend	report	resent
resist	resume	risk
shirk	shun	suggest
support	tolerate	understand
urge	warrant	

- Common verbs followed by an infinitive:

Example: *She threatened to quit if she didn't get a raise.*

agree	appear	arrange
ask	attempt	beg
can/can't afford	can/can't wait	care
chance	choose	claim
come	consent	dare
decide	demand	deserve
determine	elect	endeavor
expect	fail	get
grow (up)	guarantee	hesitate
hope	hurry	incline
learn	manage	mean
need	neglect	offer
pay	plan	prepare
pretend	profess	promise
prove	refuse	remain
request	resolve	say
seek	seem	shudder
strive	struggle	swear
tend	threaten	turn out
venture	volunteer	wait
want	wish	would like
yearn		

- Verbs followed by a gerund or infinitive with little to no change in meaning:

Example: *It started to rain. / It started raining.*

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

- Verbs followed by a gerund or infinitive with a change in meaning:

forget	I forgot to meet him. (I didn't meet him because I forgot to do it.)
	I forgot meeting him. (I don't have the memory of meeting him before.)
go on	He went on to learn English and French. (He ended one period of time before this.)
	He went on learning English and French. (He continued learning the languages.)
quit	She quit to work here. (She quit another job in order to work here.)
	She quit working here. (She quit her job here. She doesn't work here anymore.)
regret	I regret promising to help you. (I'm sorry that I made the promise.)
	I regret to tell you that we can't hire you. (I'm telling you now, and I'm sorry.)
remember	She remembered to visit her grandmother. (She didn't forget to visit.)
	She remembered visiting her grandmother. (She had memories of this time.)
stop	I stopped to call you. (I interrupted another action in order to call you.)
	I stopped calling you. (I stopped this activity. Maybe we had a fight.)
try	I tried to open the window. (I attempted this action but didn't succeed.)
	I tried opening the window. (This was one option I sampled. Maybe the room was hot.)