

17<sup>th</sup> December  
OET Writing – Verb Forms Continued

Are there verbs which take both infinitive and gerund?

What's the difference? **Gerund = general / infinitive = specific**

I began **studying** English a year ago.

I began **to study** English on the 8th of February.

I prefer **staying** in hotels when I'm on holiday.

I prefer **to stay** in *L' Hotel* when I'm on holiday in Paris.

She can't stand **to visit** her grandmother.

She can't stand **visiting** relatives.

Other verbs which follow the same patterns are:

*begin / bother / can't bear / can't stand / continue / hate / like / love / prefer / start*

**After 'would' like/love/prefer/hate, use the infinitive:**

I would love **to eat** at a restaurant today.

~~I would love **eating** at a restaurant today.~~

I like **eating** at restaurants. = **in general**

I like **to eat** at restaurants at the weekend. = **specifically at weekends**

**Are there verbs which can take both the infinitive and the gerund but the meaning is different?**

**What is the difference?**

I remembered **to buy** milk and now we can have breakfast.

= I remembered (first action) and then I did the second action (I bought the milk)

I remember **buying** milk but there is none in the fridge.

= I have a memory of something (buying milk) and now I am remembering this

I forgot **to buy** milk and so we can't have breakfast.

= I didn't remember (first action) and so I did not do the second action (I did not buy the milk)

I'll never forget **visiting** India for the first time.

= I have a memory of something (visiting India) and I will never forget this memory

I regret **to tell** you that you were not successful.

= I feel sorry/bad about something I'm going to tell you

I regret **telling** him about it, it was a terrible idea.

= I did something in the past and now I feel sorry

Try **to do** the homework tonight.

= make an effort / try hard

Try **eating** more fruit, it may help.

= give advice or recommendations

I need **to clean** my room.

= has active meaning – focus is on 'who' needs to do the action

My room needs **cleaning**

= has passive meaning – focus is on 'what' needs the action – "My room needs to be cleaned"

I stopped **eating** chocolate a year ago.

= the action (eating chocolate) no longer happens – "I quit eating chocolate"

I stopped **to read** a newspaper on the way to work.

= I stopped one action (going to work) to do another action (read a newspaper) and then continued the first action (going to work)

## Practice:

Choose the correct form of the verb to complete the sentence:

1. I'll never forget ~~to see~~ / **seeing** the Grand Canyon for the first time.
2. I need **to call** / ~~calling~~ the helpline. My computer has crashed.
3. Have you tried ~~to take~~ / **taking** a tablet to help you sleep?
4. I must have my keys somewhere. I can remember ~~to lock~~ / **locking** the door this morning.
5. I had to run home because I had forgotten **to turn** / ~~turning~~ the oven off.
6. Our house needs ~~to paint~~ / **painting**. Do you know any good house painters?
7. Did you remember **to send** / ~~sending~~ your sister a card? It's her birthday today.
8. We tried **to learn** / ~~learning~~ to ski last winter, but we weren't very good at it.