

Verb Patterns: Verbs Followed by the Gerund or Infinitive

Gerund

- **admit**
In court, the accused admitted (to) stealing the documents.
- **avoid**
I always try to avoid driving in the rush hour.
- **be worth**
It isn't worth going to the exhibition. It's really boring.
- **can't help**
We can't help laughing when my dad tries to speak French. His accent is awful!
- **can't stand**
I can't stand talking to people who only talk about themselves.
- **carry on**
We carried on chatting until about 2.00 in the morning.
- **deny**
Miriam denied killing her husband but the jury didn't believe her.
- **enjoy**
I used to enjoy flying but now I don't.
- **fancy**
Do you fancy seeing a film this evening?
- **feel like**
I don't feel like going out tonight.
- **finish**
Have you finished writing the report yet?
- **give up**
Karen has given up eating meat but she still eats fish.
- **keep (on)**
I keep (on) telling my husband to lose some weight but he just won't listen.
- **look forward to**
We are really looking forward to seeing you again.
- **imagine**
I can't imagine living in the country. I think I would get bored after a week.
- **involve**
My boyfriend's job involves travelling at least once a month.
- **mind**
I don't mind doing housework. I find it quite relaxing.
- **miss**
Does your father miss working now that he has retired?
- **postpone**
We'll have to postpone going to the beach until the weather improves.
- **practise**
The more you practise speaking English, the more fluent you'll get.
- **recommend**
I recommend doing a double-decker bus tour as the best way to see London.
- **regret**
I regret not travelling more before I got my first job.
- **risk**
If we were you, I wouldn't risk walking through the park at night.
- **spend**
I spent half an hour looking for my glasses this morning.
- **stop**
Once I open a box of chocolates, I can't stop eating them.

- **suggest**
A friend of mine suggested visiting London in the autumn.

All phrasal verbs which are followed by another verb, e.g. carry on, give up, etc., are followed by the gerund.

Infinitive (with to)

- **afford**
I can't afford to go on holiday this summer.
- **agree**
I have agreed to pay David back the money he lent me next week.
- **appear**
The results appear to support the scientist's theory.
- **arrange**
I've arranged to meet Sally outside the restaurant.
- **be able**
I won't be able to work for two weeks after the operation.
- **can't wait**
We can't wait to see your new flat – it sounds fantastic.
- **choose**
I chose to study abroad for a year, and it's the best thing I've ever done.
- **decide**
They've decided to call off the wedding.
- **deserve**
Kim deserves to get the job. She's a very strong candidate.
- **expect**
We're expecting to get our exam results on Friday.
- **happen**
Tom happened to be at Alan's when I called in so I invited him to our party as well.
- **help***
The organization I work for helps young people to find work abroad.
- **hesitate**
Don't hesitate to ask a member of staff if you need anything.
- **hope**
I'm hoping to set up my own company if I can get a bank loan.
- **learn**
I wish I had learnt to play the guitar when I was younger.
- **make**
When I was at school, we were made to wear a uniform. It was awful.
- **manage**
Did you manage to get to the airport in time?
- **offer**
Lucy has offered to give me a lift to the station.
- **plan**
We're planning to have a big party to celebrate.
- **pretend**
I pretended to be enthusiastic but really I didn't like the idea at all.
- **promise**
Sarah always promises to help me in the kitchen but she never does.
- **refuse**
My neighbour refused to turn down the music and I had to call the police.
- **seem**
Something seems to be wrong with the washing machine.
- **teach**
Jack's father taught him to drive when he was seventeen.

- **tend**
My boss tends to lose her temper when she's feeling stressed.
- **threaten**
The teacher threatened to call my parents and tell them what I had done.
- **want**
The police want to interview anyone who witnessed the crime.
- **would like**
Would you like to try the dress on? The changing rooms are over there.

*help can be followed by the infinitive with or without to.

e.g., The organization I work for helps young people (to) find work abroad.

Bare Infinitive / Base Form (without to)

- **can**
Can you help me carry these suitcases?
- **may**
There's a lot of traffic today, so we may be a bit late.
- **might**
It might rain tomorrow, so please bring an umbrella or a raincoat.
- **must**
I must remember to phone Harry – it's his birthday today.
- **should**
Should we book a table for tomorrow night? It's a very popular restaurant.
- **had better**
You'd better leave now if you want to catch that train.
- **would rather**
You look tired. Would you rather stay in this evening and watch a film?
- **make**
Sue makes her two teenagers do the washing up every evening after dinner.
- **let**
Let me pay for coffee – it must be my turn.

Further Practice:

A

Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets in the infinitive (with or without to) or the gerund (-ing).

1. I learnt **to speak** French when I was at school. (**speak**)
 2. Do you fancy _____ a film tonight? (**go see**)
 3. Laura's mother lets her _____ when she wants. (**go out**)
 4. I can't afford _____ a holiday this year. (**have**)
 5. It's getting late. We'd better _____ much longer. (**not stay**)
 6. I'm going to carry on _____ until 8.00 tonight. (**work**)
 7. What are you planning _____ to the party? (**wear**)
 8. Would you rather _____ in the country or in a town? (**live**)
 9. I couldn't help _____ when my brother fell off his bicycle. (**laugh**)
 10. Did you manage _____ the report before the meeting? (**finish**)
 11. We're really looking forward to _____ you again. (**see**)
 12. If I tell you a secret, do you promise _____ anybody? (**not tell**)
 13. My boss made me _____ late last night. (**work**)
 14. Since I've moved abroad I really miss _____ my friends. (**see**)
 15. Would you like me _____ you with the dinner? (**help**)
 16. I don't mind _____. I'm not in a hurry. (**wait**)
 17. Sorry, you aren't allowed _____ here. (**park**)
 18. We need to practise _____ before the oral exam. (**speak**)
 19. I like _____ early in the morning in the summer. (**get up**)
 20. Monica might _____ tomorrow. She's ill. (**not come**)
 21. I love _____ time with my grandparents. (**spend**)
 22. Will you be able _____ me a lift to work tomorrow? (**give**)
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B

Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets in the gerund or the infinitive with to.

1. You forgot **to buy** the milk. (**buy**)
2. Could you try _____ late tomorrow? (**not be**)
3. The sheets on this bed are dirty. They need _____. (**change**)
4. Don't you remember _____ his wife at that party at Christmas? (**meet**)
5. I'll never forget _____ in New York for the first time. (**arrive**)
6. I think you need _____ the irregular verbs. (**revise**)
7. Did you remember _____ James about the meeting tomorrow? (**tell**)
8. If the computer doesn't work, try _____ it off and on again. (**turn**)

Answers:

A

2. going to see
 3. go out
 4. to have
 5. not stay
 6. working
 7. to wear
 8. live
 9. laughing
 10. to finish
 11. seeing
 12. not to tell
 13. work
 14. seeing
 15. to help
 16. waiting
 17. to park
 18. speaking
 19. getting up
 20. not come
 21. spending
 22. to give
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B

2. not to be
3. changing
4. meeting
5. arriving
6. to revise
7. to tell
8. turning