



***July 2024 OPEN
Intermediate Workshop***

Deciding or To Decide: gerund or infinitive

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Gerunds are the **-ing form** of a verb, and infinitives are the **to + base form**. Using gerunds and infinitives correctly with verbs can be difficult because some verbs **only go with the gerund**, while other verbs **only go with the infinitive**.

Also, there are other verbs that can **go with either the gerund or the infinitive**. The meaning is sometimes the same, but other times choosing the infinitive or the gerund will **change the meaning** of the sentence.

In this workshop, we will look at some examples of each case. Then, you can check your understanding with a **quiz**.

Verb + gerund (-ing form) 1

A number of verbs are followed by a **gerund** rather than the **infinitive**. These verbs include:

admit, advise, avoid, can't stand, consider, discuss, dislike, dread, enjoy, finish, imagine, involve, look forward to, mind, miss, practise, recommend, risk, suggest

Example sentences:

- I **enjoyed meeting** our team members from Boise when they visited the site.
- I think we should **consider having** a meeting to discuss the issue.
- You should **avoid walking** while using your smartphone.

Verb + gerund (-ing form) 2

When a verb **follows a preposition**, it should be in the **gerund** form.

Example sentences:

- He is interested **in joining** the English Helpdesk's workshop classes.
- She is looking forward **to attending** the ERG event next month.
- He is worried **about giving** his first technical presentation at the JTS.

Verb + infinitive (to + base form) 1

A number of verbs are followed by the **infinitive** rather than a **gerund**. These verbs include:

admit, afford, agree, appear, arrange, ask, choose, decide, expect, fail, hope, invite, learn, manage, need, offer, plan, prepare, promise, refuse, seem, wait, want, would like.

Example sentences:

- They **agreed to meet** next week after the event.
- I **managed to complete** my report by the deadline.
- They **plan to hire** a lot of college graduates next year.

Verb + infinitive (to + base form) 2

The **infinitive** is used to **express the purpose** or **intention** behind an action.

Example sentences:

- He is going to Boise **to attend** a semiconductor conference.
- She studied hard **to obtain** that professional qualification.
- He will visit the English Helpdesk **to improve** the quality of his technical paper.

Verb + infinitive (to + base form) 3

The **infinitive** is also often used **after adjectives**. For example, when an adjective is used to describe a person's feeling, the infinitive form can follow to explain the reason for the emotion.

Example sentences:

- She was **relieved to hear** the good news about the budget.
- The manager was **pleased to announce** that there will be a holiday next month.
- It is **necessary to speak** English when working for a global company.

Verb + gerund or infinitive 1

Some verbs can be followed by a **gerund** or an **infinitive**. Sometimes there is **little or no change in meaning**. These verbs include:

begin, bother, continue, hate, like, love, prefer, start

Example sentences:

- I like **travelling**. / I like **to travel**.
- It started **raining**. / It started **to rain**.
- He prefers **drinking** coffee. / He prefers **to drink** coffee.

Verb + gerund or infinitive 2

Some verbs can be followed by a **gerund** or an **infinitive**, but there is a **change in meaning**.

These verbs include:

forget, go on, mean, regret, remember, stop, try

Example sentences showing the differences in meaning:

Stop

I **stopped going** to the gym on my way home. (Meaning: You quit doing this activity).

I **stopped to go** to the gym on my way home. (Meaning: You stopped in order to do it).

Remember

I **remember seeing** Ken at the party. (Meaning: You did it in the past and remember doing it).

I **remembered to see** Ken at the party. (Meaning: You had the intention to do it and did it).

Verb + gerund or infinitive 2

Regret

I **regret making** a mistake in the report. (Meaning: You did it in the past and feel bad about it.)

I **regret to tell** you that your abstract has been rejected. (Meaning: You are sorry to tell this bad news).

Forget

She **forgot meeting** him last summer. (Meaning: She did it in the past but doesn't remember doing it).

He **forgot to send** the report to his boss. (Meaning: He had the intention to do it but didn't).

Go on

Please **go on reading** the report. (Meaning: To continue doing the same activity).

She **went on to do** a master's degree. (Meaning: She changed to the next activity).

Try

She **tried going** to the gym to get fit. (Meaning: She did something as an experiment to see if it would work).

He **tried to change** the wheel, but it was too cold. (Meaning: He made an effort to do something difficult).

Workshop Activity 1

Select the correct form, gerund or infinitive,
and read the sentence out loud.

Workshop Activity 1

1. The manager suggested _____ the production schedule to meet the new deadline.
a) revising
b) to revise
2. We decided _____ the new quality control measures next month.
a) implementing
b) to implement
3. Micron is focused on _____ customer demands promptly.
a) meeting
b) to meet
4. Workday training is assigned _____ that all team members are up to date with the latest work procedures.
a) ensuring
b) to ensure

Workshop Activity 2

Select the correct form, gerund or infinitive, for two questions and read the two sentences out loud.

