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

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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

- 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).

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



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

5. The construction manager was delighted ______ the completion of the new facility ahead of schedule.a) announcing b) to announce

6. The manufacturing engineers plan ______ the new tool in the clean room next week.a) installing b) to install

7. Micron avoids ______ substandard raw materials to ensure product quality.a) using b) to use

8. We expect ______ the reticle before the date it is required for manufacturing.a) receiving b) to receive

9. The technician admitted ______ the settings without following the correct procedure.a) changing b) to change

10. We are conducting a survey _____ the factors that are affecting employee morale.a) determining _____ b) to determine

11. I was sorry _____ that he has left the company.a) hearingb) to hear

12. The success of the project depends on ______ effectively across departments.a) collaboratingb) to collaborate

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



- 1. I stopped ______ coffee because I couldn't sleep if I drank it at night.a) havingb) to have
- 2. I stopped ______ a coffee because I didn't want to fall asleep while driving.a) having b) to have
- 3. I regret _____ you that your flight has been delayed.a) informing b) to inform
- 4. I regret _____ late for the team meeting this morning.a) being b) to be

5. Remember _____ off your computer when go on holiday.a) switching b) to switch

6. I remember _____ off the lights when I went home last night.a) switching b) to switch

7. She went on ______ for the same company all her life. a) working b) to work

8. After leading a small team in Hiroshima, he went on _____ a department in Boise.a) managing b) to manage

9. She'll never forget ______ such a good time in Europe on holiday.a) having b) to have

10. I'll never forget ______ you a birthday card because it's on my computer calendar a) sending b) to send

11. He tried _____ Chinese, but he gave up after a few months. a) learning b) to learn

12. She tried ______ the site, but she had forgotten her ID card. a) entering b) to enter