

# UNIT 1

## GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES

### INFINITIVE

We use the infinitive:

- to say why we do something:  
She put a tick **to accept** the terms and conditions.  
He's taken up long-distance running **to improve** his health.
- to say why something exists:  
They've erected the metal barrier on that sharp bend **to reduce** accidents.
- after too and enough:  
It was too late **to express** my opinion because the professor had already moved on to another topic.  
The image wasn't clear enough **to illustrate** clearly what it was supposed to depict.

We use the infinitive in the following verb patterns:

verb + <b>to infinitive</b>	agree, appear, bother, decide, demand, fail, hope, learn, manage, offer, plan, refuse, seem, be, supposed, threaten	They agreed to vote on the new reform.
verb + ( <b>somebody/something</b> ) + <b>to infinitive</b>	ask, choose, expect, help, intend, promise, want	He expected to do well in the test. I expect you to do well in the test.
verb + <b>somebody/something</b> + <b>to infinitive</b>	advise, allow, enable, encourage, forbid, force, invite, order, permit, persuade, recommend, remind, teach, tell, warn	My parents forbade me to boast about my academic achievements.

We use the verbs in the lists above to report speech.

### VERB + -ING

We use a verb + -ing, e.g. *I can't stop yawning*:

- after prepositions:  
He's improved his English **by reading** extensively.  
**Note:** We also use a verb + -ing after to when to is a preposition:  
*I'm looking forward to **receiving** a detailed reply to my letter of complaint.*
- as subjects or objects of a sentence:  
**Correcting** mistakes is a crucial part of the learning process.  
*When he was fully recovered after the operation, he decided to take up **wrestling**.*
- after the verbs admit, appreciate, avoid, celebrate, consider, delay, deny, dislike, enjoy, finish, imagine, involve, keep, mind, miss, postpone, practise, regret, risk, stop, suggest:  
*I considered **swapping** this task for another one.*  
*She celebrated **passing** all her exams by going on a trip to Thailand.*  
*I now regret **borrowing** money from my grandparents.*
- after the expressions it's no good, it's not worth, it's no use, it's a waste of time, can't stand, can't bear, can't help  
*It's a waste of time **trying** to increase the bee population.*  
*It's not worth **buying** expensive ski gear – you can hire it.*  
*I can't bear **seeing** my best friend making such a fool of herself.*

## VERBS FOLLOWED BY EITHER AN INFINITIVE OR A VERB + -ING WITH ALMOST THE SAME MEANING

*I hate criticising people. I hate to criticise people.*

*It continued being foggy all morning. It continued to be foggy all morning.*

**Note:** When love, hate, prefer and like are used with would, they are **always** followed by the infinitive:  
*We would like to devote more time to our exam preparation.*

# VERB FOLLOWED BY EITHER AN INFINITIVE OR A VERB + -ING WITH A DIFFERENCE

	VERB + INFINITIVE	VERB + -ING
remember	Did you remember to bring your running shoes? (an action you have to do)	I remember wondering if I would ever get down off the summit of the mountain. (a memory of something in the past)
forget	Don't forget to complete your physics presentation. (an action you have to do)	I'll never forget seeing my wife for the first time at my best friend's wedding. (a memory of something in the past)
regret	I regret to tell you that the room you booked is no longer available. (I'm sorry to give you this information.)	I regret not arriving at the hotel at the agreed time. (I'm sorry I didn't do this.)
try	I'm mailing my CV every day to IT companies to try and get a job. (My objective is to get a job in IT.)	If you want to get a job in IT, why don't you try phoning the companies? (Phoning is a method to reach your objective.)
mean	Martin means to get a scholarship to cover some of the costs of his college course. (This is his intention.)	He wanted to get a scholarship to cover some of the costs of his college course, but it meant getting top grades in all his subjects. (it involved)
stop	She stopped playing the game of chess to phone her mother. (in order to phone her mother)	When her opponent made a winning move, she stopped playing the game of chess. (She didn't continue.)

Note: The form forget + verb + -ing is unusual. It is more normal to use (not) remember. I don't remember being three years old. (NOT I forget being three years old.)

## PRACTISE

1 Tick the correct sentences. Correct the sentences with mistakes.

- He decided make a high offer to be sure he could buy the second-hand car.
- I intend to continue to improve my level of spoken English.
- They persuaded me applying for the position of assistant manager.
- It's recommended to book a table in advance.
- Can I remind you not driving without having your licence on you.
- The lawyers advised him say he was guilty of the crime.

2 Choose the correct option in *italics*.

- I can't stop to *speak/speaking*. I'm in a hurry.
- He's completed the design on time by closely *follow/following* the brief he was given.
- I'm looking forward to *joining/join* the expedition to the North Pole.
- I admit to foolishly *celebrate/celebrating* victory before the game was over.
- I regret not *taking up/take up* the place I was offered at university.
- I can't bear *watching/watch* politicians being dishonest.
- If you forget to *do/doing* the homework, you will have problems with the teacher.

3 Match the beginnings and endings of these sentences.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 It's not           | a not taking driving lessons.              |
| 2 It's a waste of    | b people talking about money all the time. |
| 3 It's no use        | c time learning foreign languages.         |
| 4 I can't stand      | d worth complaining to the manager.        |
| 5 She prefers to     | e eat fish rather than seafood.            |
| 6 I very much regret | f buying property. It's better to rent.    |

4 Complete the sentence with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. In which sentence are two answers possible?

- I meant \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) my grandfather a birthday present, but I forgot.
- I remember \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) the painting I bought you all round Mexico!
- She's stopped \_\_\_\_\_ (take) sandwiches to work. She eats in the canteen now.
- Camping isn't for me. I prefer \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in a comfortable hotel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (analyse) the problem is not enough - what we need is a solution.
- Tom doesn't believe in \_\_\_\_\_ (pay) for anything if he can get it for free.