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## Gerund or infinitives?

Those guys are mortal enemies! You can NEVER have an infinitive and a gerund in the same sentence!

They hate each other! They will fight!

Your sentence will die a slow and painful death if you use both together!

What is a gerund? It's a noun or an action in "ing".

There are 4 groups of verbs. The first one we'll see the verbs which accept both "ing" and infinitive with a slight difference in the meaning; the second group will only accept the infinitive; the third group will only accept the gerund, and the fourth group we'll see the verbs which the verbs accept both forms too but with completely different meanings.

In the first group, there are verbs such as prefer, love, hate, dislike, like. They are the BIG BOSSES in the sentence, so the verbs that come after them obey them.

I love cook

(I cannot use cook after love just like that... we can use both ways: I love TO cook or I love cooking)

The big boss in here is "love"

In the second group, some verbs that only accept infinitive after them:

I want to go to Salvador.

(NOT I want going to Salvador)

She hopes to find a job soon.  
(NOT She hopes finding a job soon)

He decided to quit his job.  
(NOT He decided quitting his job)

Here's a list for you with very common verbs followed by infinitive:

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Agree	<i>To say you will do</i>	Mark agreed <i>to help</i> us with the homework
Appear	<i>To seem to be</i>	She appeared <i>to wait</i> for a moment.
Arrange	<i>To put in some order</i>	We arranged <i>to meet</i> Mary next week.
Ask	<i>To inquire</i>	He asked <i>to join</i> us for dinner.
Attempt	<i>To try</i>	Jen attempted <i>to say</i> something.
Beg	<i>To urgently ask for</i>	The woman begged <i>to receive</i> some help.
Can/can't afford	<i>To permit</i>	I can't afford <i>to spend</i> time doing this.
Can/can't wait	<i>To allow time for</i>	John can't wait <i>to see</i> Sarah next week.
Care	<i>To have feelings for</i>	She cares <i>to comment</i> about the situation.
Chance	<i>To try</i>	I chanced <i>to give</i> it a taste and it was surprisingly good.
Choose	<i>To make a choice</i>	Mel chose <i>to not</i> visit her friends last weekend.

<b>Claim</b>	<i>To say is true</i>	Mark claims <i>to see</i> UFOs!
<b>Come</b>	<i>To arrive at</i>	He came <i>to purchase</i> a new car.
<b>Consent</b>	<i>To agree to</i>	Leah consented <i>to instruct</i> the children.
<b>Dare</b>	<i>To risk doing</i>	We dared <i>to take</i> some time off work.
<b>Decide</b>	<i>To make a decision</i>	He decided <i>to go to</i> university in NYC.
<b>Demand</b>	<i>To insist, to give an order</i>	I demand <i>to receive</i> help now!
<b>Deserve</b>	<i>To merit</i>	Martha deserves to have her time off this week.
<b>Determine</b>	<i>To come to the conclusion</i>	We are determined <i>to finish</i> the project by the end of this year.
<b>Elect</b>	<i>To choose</i>	Paul elected <i>to not come</i> with us to the presentation.
<b>Endeavor</b>	<i>To try</i>	The company endeavors <i>to provide</i> the best possible service.
<b>Expect</b>	<i>To feel something should shappen</i>	She expects <i>to arrive</i> in 30 minutes.
<b>Fail</b>	<i>To not succeed</i>	Unfortunately, they failed <i>to get</i> enough votes.
<b>Get</b>	<i>To receive</i>	We got <i>to see</i> our friends last week.
<b>Grow (up)</b>	<i>To advance into maturity</i>	As I grow <i>to understand</i> life less and less, I learn to love it more and more.

<b>Guarantee</b>	<i>To say will happen</i>	They guarantee <i>to finish</i> the work before 5 o'clock.
<b>Hesitate</b>	<i>To not be sure about</i>	She hesitated <i>to say</i> yes, but in the end, did.
<b>Hope</b>	<i>To want to happen</i>	I hope <i>to see</i> you soon.
<b>Hurry</b>	<i>To go to quickly</i>	Mack is hurrying <i>to finish</i> the report by 3 this afternoon.
<b>Incline</b>	<i>To tend towards</i>	He is <i>inclined</i> to not come to parties.
<b>Learn</b>	<i>To study and memorize</i>	The children learned <i>to do</i> many things at camp this summer.
<b>Manage</b>	<i>To do with difficulty</i>	Don managed <i>to finish</i> the job on time.
<b>Need</b>	<i>To have to have/do</i>	We need <i>to think</i> about this some more.
<b>Neglect</b>	<i>To not do something you should do</i>	The man neglected <i>to give</i> me all the information.
<b>Offer</b>	<i>To say you will do, give, provide</i>	We offered <i>to help</i> them with their homework.
<b>Pay</b>	<i>To spend money on</i>	We paid <i>to become</i> informed about the matter.
<b>Plan</b>	<i>To think about the future</i>	I plan <i>to visit</i> Chicago someday.
<b>Prepare</b>	<i>To get ready for</i>	They are preparing <i>to leave</i> on vacation.

<b>Pretend</b>	<i>To act as if</i>	The boy pretended <i>to be</i> a ghost.
<b>Profess</b>	<i>To believe</i>	Lori professes <i>to believe</i> in UFOs.
<b>Promise</b>	<i>To say you will do</i>	I promise <i>to come over</i> tonight for dinner.
<b>Prove</b>	<i>demonstrate the truth or existence of (something) by evidence or argument</i>	In this test, this bacteria will prove <i>to have</i> a useful effect in the environment.
<b>Refuse</b>	<i>To say you will not do</i>	Jane refused <i>to do</i> what he asked.
<b>Remain</b>	<i>To stay</i>	I remained <i>to finish</i> the work until 8 o'clock.
<b>Request</b>	<i>To ask for</i>	The man requested <i>to speak</i> to a lawyer.
<b>Resolve</b>	<i>To decide to do</i>	We resolved <i>to clean</i> up the house this summer.
<b>Say</b>	<i>To tell someone</i>	He said <i>to tell</i> you hi!
<b>Seek</b>	<i>To look for</i>	They are seeking <i>to receive</i> \$1,000,000 in damages.
<b>Seem</b>	<i>To appear</i>	It seems <i>to be</i> very easy.
<b>Shudder</b>	<i>To physically react to something you do not like</i>	I shudder <i>to think</i> about all the problems in the world.
<b>Strive</b>	<i>To try hard to do</i>	Frank strove <i>to meet</i> all the demands of his boss.

<b>Struggle</b>	<i>To work hard to do</i>	The students struggle to <i>understand</i> all the grammar.
<b>Swear</b>	<i>To promise to do</i>	I swear <i>to be</i> a good boy in the future.
<b>Tend</b>	<i>To usually do</i>	Dianne tends <i>to waste</i> time on the telephone.
<b>Threaten</b>	<i>To say you will do a bad thing to someone</i>	The boss threatened <i>to fire</i> everyone.
<b>Turn out</b>	<i>To prove to be the case</i>	They turned out <i>to be</i> completely alone.
<b>Volunteer</b>	<i>To say you will help</i>	They volunteered <i>to help</i> with the cooking.
<b>Wait</b>	<i>To let time pass</i>	We waited <i>to see</i> the doctor for three hours.
<b>Want</b>	<i>To desire</i>	I want <i>to help</i> you.
<b>Wish</b>	<i>To want to do</i>	She wishes <i>to visit</i> her parents in Ireland.
<b>Would like</b>	<i>To want</i>	I'd like <i>to have</i> a steak, please.
<b>Yearn</b>	<i>To desire very strongly</i>	I yearn <i>to finish</i> work today!

Now, let's jump to the third group: the verbs which will only accept gerunds.

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Abhor	<i>To hate</i>	Pam abhors <i>working</i> outdoors.
Acknowledge	<i>To recognize what someone has done</i>	She acknowledges his <i>working</i> hard on the project.
Admit	<i>To say that you have done</i>	Peter admits <i>wasting</i> time and money.
Advise	<i>To give advice</i>	I advise <i>saving</i> a little money every month.
Allow	<i>To permit</i>	She allows <i>using</i> smartphones in class.
Anticipate	<i>To expect</i>	I anticipate <i>visiting</i> New York next month.
Appreciate	<i>To be grateful for</i>	Jack appreciates your <i>helping</i> him out with the project.
Avoid	<i>To try not to do</i>	She avoids <i>dating</i> men over 30.
Be worth	<i>To be a good idea to spend the time on</i>	It's worth <i>spending</i> some time on the grammar.
Be afraid of (worry)	<i>only if the meaning is "being worried"</i>	I'm afraid of having an accident.
Can't help	<i>To be able to not do</i>	Tom can't help <i>complaining</i> about the heat.
Celebrate	<i>To party about</i>	We'll celebrate <i>working</i> together for over 50 years.

<b>Confess</b>	<i>To admit that you did</i>	Alice confessed <i>stealing</i> the money from her sister.
<b>Consider</b>	<i>To think about</i>	We're <i>considering</i> buying a new house.
<b>Defend</b>	<i>To give reasons why you did</i>	They defend <i>purchasing</i> the new car because they have two jobs.
<b>Delay</b>	<i>To postpone, put off</i>	We're going to delay <i>meeting</i> until next week.
<b>Detest</b>	<i>To hate, despise</i>	Jack detests <i>learning</i> new vocabulary.
<b>Discontinue</b>	<i>To stop doing, providing</i>	The store discontinued <i>providing</i> customer service on demand.
<b>Discuss</b>	<i>To talk about</i>	We like to discuss <i>learning</i> techniques.
<b>Dislike</b>	<i>To not like</i>	Bob dislikes <i>having</i> to work so hard.
<b>Dispute</b>	<i>To say you didn't do</i>	They dispute <i>stealing</i> the merchandise.
<b>Dread</b>	<i>To fear doing or experiencing</i>	I dread <i>taking</i> tests
<b>Endure</b>	<i>To go through</i>	We endured <i>listening</i> to him for three hours.
<b>Enjoy</b>	<i>To have a good time doing</i>	Sarah enjoys <i>cooking</i> fine dinners.
<b>Escape</b>	<i>To get away from</i>	The students escaped <i>taking</i> the test because the fire alarm rang.



<b>Evade</b>	<i>To avoid</i>	He evades <i>doing</i> yard work on Saturdays.
<b>Explain</b>	<i>To give details about</i>	He'll explain <i>purchasing</i> online next week.
<b>Fancy</b>	<i>To like very much</i>	They fancy <i>eating</i> donuts.
<b>Fear</b>	<i>To be afraid of</i>	I fear <i>flying</i> in airplanes.
<b>Feign</b>	<i>To pretend to do</i>	Mary feigns not <i>knowing</i> anything.
<b>Finish</b>	<i>To stop doing</i>	We finished <i>shopping</i> and went home.
<b>Forgive</b>	<i>To not be angry at someone anymore</i>	They forgave <i>stealing</i> the candy as the children didn't know it was wrong.
<b>Give up</b>	<i>To stop doing or having it</i>	Mark gave up <i>working</i> in that office.
<b>Keep</b>	<i>To continue doing</i>	We keep <i>studying</i> the same grammar every week.
<b>Mention</b>	<i>To say in passing</i>	They mentioned buying a new car last week.
<b>Mind</b>	<i>To object to</i>	I don't mind <i>smoking</i> .
<b>Miss</b>	<i>To want something you don't have</i>	I miss <i>having</i> more free time.
<b>Necessitate</b>	<i>To require to do</i>	The job necessitates <i>lifting</i> heavy objects
<b>Omit</b>	<i>To leave out, delete</i>	We omitted <i>discussing</i> the new Smith account during the meeting.

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<b>Permit</b>	<i>To allow</i>	We'll permit <i>fishing</i> on Saturdays.
<b>Picture</b>	<i>To imagine</i>	Doug pictures <i>retiring</i> to Brazil.
<b>Postpone</b>	<i>To put off, delay</i>	We postponed <i>traveling</i> to Chicago for a week.
<b>Practice</b>	<i>To do over and over again</i>	Practice <i>playing</i> scales for 30 minutes every day.
<b>Prevent</b>	<i>To stop; to keep (from happening)</i>	He prevented the company <i>from firing</i> that girl.
<b>Put off</b>	<i>To delay or postpone</i>	They put off <i>discussing</i> this question.
<b>Recall</b>	<i>To remember</i>	Yes, I recall <i>buying</i> that book.
<b>Recollect</b>	<i>To remember</i>	Tom recollects <i>playing</i> baseball as a child.
<b>Recommend</b>	<i>To tell someone they should do something</i>	They recommend <i>purchasing</i> insurance with this product.
<b>Report</b>	<i>To tell about</i>	Tim reported <i>spending</i> twelve hours on the job.
<b>Resent</b>	<i>To not like that something that someone does</i>	Susan resents <i>having</i> to work so hard.
<b>Resist</b>	<i>To try to avoid doing</i>	Many students resist <i>studying</i> more than two hours a day.
<b>Resume</b>	<i>To start doing again</i>	We resumed <i>speaking</i> about the problem at the meeting.

<b>Risk</b>	<i>To take a chance on</i>	Jack risks <i>making</i> everyone angry with his stupid statements.
<b>Shirk</b>	<i>To not do something you should do</i>	Dan shirked <i>paying</i> for the children's meal.
<b>Shun</b>	<i>To avoid contact with</i>	Don't shun <i>spending</i> time with those you don't know very well.
<b>Suggest</b>	<i>To say someone should do something</i>	I suggest <i>buying</i> a new camera.
<b>Support</b>	<i>to help someone with words, thoughts or money</i>	They supported our <i>going</i> to the doctor for help.
<b>Tolerate</b>	<i>to allow someone to do or to accept something you don't like or approve</i>	Sarah won't tolerate <i>questioning</i> about her behavior.
<b>Understand</b>	<i>To comprehend</i>	He understands <i>investing</i> in the stock market.
<b>Urge</b>	<i>To suggest strongly</i>	I urge spending some time <i>learning</i> the program.
<b>Resist</b>	<i>To try to avoid doing</i>	Many students resist <i>studying</i> more than two hours a day.
<b>Warrant</b>	<i>To provide the reasons for doing</i>	The situation warrants <i>investigating</i> Mr. Todd.

Of course that there are some verbs where they accept both gerund and infinitive, BUT they have completely different meanings:

<p><b>begin</b></p>	<p>She began singing.</p> <p>She began to sing.</p> <p><i>When "begin" is used in non-continuous tenses, you can either use a gerund or an infinitive.</i></p>	<p>She is beginning to sing.</p> <p><i>When "begin" is used in continuous tenses, an infinitive is used.</i></p>
<p><b>dread</b></p>	<p>She dreaded taking the test.</p> <p><i>Usually "dread" is followed by a gerund</i></p>	<p>He dreaded to think of the consequences of his actions.</p> <p><i>"Dread" is sometimes used with infinitives such as "think" or "consider." In the sentence above, "dreaded to think" means "did not want to think."</i></p>
<p><b>forget</b></p>	<p>She forgot reading the book when she was a kid</p> <p><i>When "forget" is used with a gerund, it means "to forget that you have done something." The sentence above means that she read the book when she was a kid, and that she has forgotten that fact</i></p>	<p>She forgot to pay the rent this month.</p> <p><i>When forget is used with an infinitive, it means "to forget that you need to do something." The sentence above means that she forgot that she needed to pay the rent.</i></p>

<b>go on</b>	<p>Go on reading the text.</p> <p><i>To continue with the same thing</i></p>	<p>Go on to read the text.</p> <p><i>To change the activity</i></p>
<b>keep</b>	<p>She kept talking.</p> <p><i>"Keep" is normally used with a gerund to mean that you continue doing an action.</i></p>	<p><i>The attackers kept hostages to prevent the police from entering.</i></p> <p><i>"Keep" can also be used with an object followed by an infinitive, but then the infinitive takes on the meaning of "in order to...". In the sentence above, the attackers kept hostages in order to prevent the police from entering.</i></p>
<b>mean</b>	<p>You have forgotten your homework again. That means phoning your mother.</p> <p><i>something has to be done to get a result</i></p>	<p>Dan means to speak with you this evening.</p> <p><i>To intend to do something</i></p>
<b>need</b>	<p>The house needs cleaning.</p> <p><i>When "need" is used with a gerund, it takes on a passive meaning. The sentence above means "the house needs to be cleaned."</i></p>	<p>He needs to call his boss. He needs him to call his boss.</p> <p><i>"Need" is usually used with an infinitive or an object + an infinitive.</i></p>

<b>regret</b>	<p>I regretted being late to the interview.</p> <p><i>"Regret" is normally used with a gerund.</i></p>	<p>We regret to inform you that your position at the company is being eliminated.</p> <p><i>"Regret" is sometimes used with infinitives such as "to inform." In the sentence above, "We regret to inform you" means "We wish we did not have to tell you (bad news)."</i></p>
<b>remember</b>	<p>I remember mentioning the meeting yesterday.</p> <p><i>When "remember" is used with a gerund, it means "to remember that you have done something." The sentence above means that I mentioned the meeting, and that I remember the fact that I did that.</i></p>	<p>He remembered to turn off the lights before he left.</p> <p><i>When "remember" is used with an infinitive, it means "to remember that you need to do something." The sentence above means that he remembered that he needed to turn the lights off.</i></p>
<b>start</b>	<p>Marge started talking really fast.</p> <p>Marge started to talk really fast.</p> <p><i>When "start" is used in non-continuous tenses, you can either use a gerund or an infinitive.</i></p>	<p>Marge is starting to talk really fast.</p> <p><i>When "start" is used in continuous tenses, an infinitive is used.</i></p> <p>I started to learn Russian, but it was so much work that I finally quit the class.</p> <p><i>In other situations, an infinitive means that you did not complete or continue an action.</i></p>

<p><b>stop</b></p>	<p>He stopped smoking for health reasons.</p> <p><i>"Stop" is normally used with a gerund.</i></p>	<p>He stopped to rest for a few minutes.</p> <p><i>When "stop" is used with an infinitive, the infinitive takes on the meaning of "in order to." In the sentence above, he stopped in order to rest for a few minutes.</i></p>
<p><b>try</b></p>	<p>She can't find a job. She tried looking in the paper, but there was nothing. She tried asking friends and family, but nobody knew of anything. She also tried going shop to shop, but nobody was hiring.</p> <p><i>"Try + gerund" means to try or to experiment with different methods to see if something works.</i></p> <p>She tried eating the snake soup, but she didn't like it</p> <p><i>"Try + gerund" is often used when you experiment with something, but you do not really like it or want to do it again.</i></p>	<p>She tried to climb the tree, but she couldn't even get off the ground</p> <p><i>When you "try to do" something, you want to do it, but you do not succeed in actually doing it. In the sentence above, an infinitive is used because she cannot successfully climb the tree</i></p> <p>Try not to wake the baby when you get up tomorrow at 5 AM.</p> <p><i>An infinitive is also used if you are asking someone to try something they may or may not be able to accomplish.</i></p> <p>.</p>



<b>used to</b>	<p>He's used to smoking.</p> <p>That means the person is familiar with something, it is part of their habits. (you'll always use the verb to be here) (= He still smokes</p>	<p>He used to smoke.</p> <p>That means that the person quit the habit of smoking.</p> <p>(= he doesn't smoke anymore</p>
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