**The gerund and infinitive** that is the question memory,

* *verbs followed by the infinitive:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * ***Manage,*** * ***Offer,*** * ***Promise,*** * ***Have,*** * ***Arrange****/organizar****,*** * ***Agree,*** * ***Decide*** * ***Forget*** | * ***Hope*** * ***Learn*** * ***Need*** * ***Plan*** * ***Pretend*** * ***Remember*** * ***start\**** * ***try*** |

*You managed to bake a cake*

*I promised to bring some*

*What have you arranged to do*?

* *verbs followed by the gerund:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * ***love*** * ***imagine*** * ***consider*** * ***finish*** * ***enjoy*** * ***go on*** | * ***hate*** * ***like*** * ***(don’t) mind*** * ***spend (time)*** * ***start\**** * ***stop*** * ***feel like*** |

*she loves reading*

*I imagine being a director is difficult*

*he won’t finish rehearsing before midnight*

\* start can be used with a gerund and infinitive

*It can be quite confusing to know when to use either the GERUND or the INFINITIVE in English because, unfortunately, there are few logical rules to help us. We can classify certain uses which usually indicate one or the other form, then learn by heart certain important verbs which are generally followed by one of the two forms and finally, look at the most common exceptions.*

**We use gerunds (verb + ing):**

* After **certain verbs** –
  + *I* ***enjoy singing***
* After **prepositions** –
  + *I drank a cup of coffee* ***before leaving***
* As the **subject or object** of a sentence –
  + ***Swimming*** *is good exercise*

**We use 'to' + infinitive:**

* After **certain verbs** –
  + *We* ***decided to leave***
* After many **adjectives** –
  + *It's* ***difficult to get*** *up early*
* To show **purpose** –
  + *I came to London* ***to study*** *English*

**We use the bare** *(desnudo)* **infinitive (the infinitive without 'to'):**

* After **modal verbs** –
  + *I can* ***meet*** *you at six o'clock*
* After '**let**', '**make**' and (sometimes) '**help**' –
  + *The teacher let us* ***leave*** *early*
* After some **verbs of perception** (see, watch, hear, notice, feel, sense) –
  + *I watched her* ***walk*** *away.*
* After expressions with '**why**' –
  + *why* ***go*** *out the night before an exam?*

***Here are some of the most common verbs that are usually followed by the gerund:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Enjoy** | I enjoyed **living** in France  *Disfruté viviendo en Francia* |
| **Fancy (*Lujoso/Fantasia*)** | I fancy **seeing** a film tonight  *Me apetece ver una película esta noche* |
| **Discuss** | We discussed **going** on holiday together  *Discutimos ir de vacaciones juntos* |
| **Dislike (*Disgusto/aversion*)** | I dislike **waiting** for buses  *No me gusta esperar por los autobuses* |
| **Finish** | We've finished **preparing** for the meeting  *Hemos terminado de prepararnos para la reunión* |
| **Mind (*Preocuparse*)** | I don't mind **coming** early  *No me importa llegar temprano* |
| **Suggest (Sugerir/Indicar)** | He suggested **staying** at the Grand Hotel  *Sugirió quedarse en el Grand Hotel* |
| **Recommend** | They recommended **meeting** earlier  *Recomendaron reunirse antes* |
| **Keep** | He kept **working**, although he felt ill  *Siguió trabajando, aunque se sintió enfermo* |
| **Avoid (Evitar/Esquivar)** | She avoided **talking** to her boss  *Ella evitó hablar con su jefe* |

***And here are some common verbs followed by 'to' and the infinitive:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **agree** | She agreed **to give** a presentation at the meeting  *Ella accedió a dar una presentación en la reunión*. |
| **ask\*** | I asked **to leave** early / I asked him to leave early  *Le pedí que se fuera temprano* |
| **decide** | We decided **to go out** for dinner  *Decidimos salir a cenar* |
| **help\*** | He helped **to clean** the kitchen / he helped his flatmate to clean the kitchen  *Ayudó a su compañero de piso a limpiar la cocina* |
| **plan** | She plans **to buy** a new flat next year  *Ella planea comprar un piso nuevo el próximo año* |
| **hope** | I hope **to pass** the exam  *Espero pasar el examen* |
| **learn** | They are learning **to sing**  *Estan aprendiendo a cantar* |
| **want\*** | I want **to come** to the party / I want him **to come** to the party  *Quiero que venga a la fiesta* |
| **would like\*** | I would like **to see** her tonight / I would like you **to see** her tonight  *Me gustaría que la vieras esta noche* |
| **promise** | We promised not **to be** late  *Prometimos no llegar tarde* |

\*We can use an object before the infinitive with these verbs.

(Note that 'help' can also be followed by the infinitive without 'to' with no difference in meaning: 'I helped to carry it' = 'I helped carry it'.)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Here are some more verbs that are usually followed by the gerund:*** | |
| **miss** | She misses **living** near the beach  *Ella extraña vivir cerca de la playa* |
| **appreciate** | I appreciated her **helping** me.  *Aprecio que me ayudara* |
| **delay** | He delayed **doing** his taxes.  *Se demoró en hacer sus impuestos* |
| **postpone** | He postponed **returning** to Paris  *Aplazó el regreso a París* |
| **practise** | She practised **singing** the song.  *Ella practicó cantando la canción.* |
| **consider** | She considered **moving** to New York.  *Ella consideró mudarse a Nueva York* |
| **can't stand** | He can't stand her **smoking** in the office.  *Él no la soporta fumando en la oficina* |
| **can't help** | He can't help **talking** so loudly  *Él no puede dejar de hablar tan fuerte*. |
| **risk** | He risked **being** caught.  *Se arriesgó a ser atrapado* |
| **admit** | He admitted **cheating** on the test.  *Admitió haber hecho trampa en la prueba* |

***And here are some more verbs followed by 'to' and the infinitive:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **can afford** | We can't afford to go on holiday.  *No nos podemos permitir ir de vacaciones* |
| **manage** | He managed to open the door without the key.  *Logró abrir la puerta sin la llave* |
| **prepare\*** | They prepared to take the test / the teachers prepared the students to take the test.  *Los profesores prepararon a los alumnos para tomar el examen*. |
| **demand** | He demanded to speak to Mr. Harris  *Exigió hablar con el señor Harris*. |
| **choose** | I chose to help.  *Elegí ayudar* |
| **offer** | Frank offered to drive us to the supermarket  *Frank se ofreció a llevarnos al supermercado*. |
| **wait** | She waited to buy a movie ticket.  *Ella esperó para comprar una entrada de cine* |
| **would hate\*** | I'd hate to be late / I'd hate you to be late  *Odiaría que llegases tarde.* |
| **would love\*** | I'd love to come / I'd love him to come.  *Me encantaría que viniera* |
| **seem** | Nancy seemed to be disappointed.  *Nancy parecía estar decepcionada* |

\*We can use an object before the infinitive with these verbs.

***Here are some more verbs that are usually followed by the gerund:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **deny** | He denied **committing** the crime.  *Él negó haber cometido el crimen* |
| **mention** | He mentioned **going** to that college.  *Mencionó ir a esa universidad* |
| **imagine** | He imagines **working** there one day.  *Se imagina trabajando allí un día* |
| **tolerate** | I tolerated her **talking**.  *La tolero hablando* |
| **understand** | I understand his **quitting**.  *Entiendo su renuncia* |
| **involve** | The job involves **travelling** to Japan once a month.  *El trabajo consiste en viajar a Japón una vez al mes* |
| **complete** | He completed **renovating** the house.  *Terminó de renovar la casa* |
| **report** | He reported her **stealing** the money.  *Informó que ella le robó el dinero* |
| **anticipate** | I anticipated **arriving** late.  *Anticipé llegar tarde* |
| **recall** | Tom recalled **using** his credit card at the store.  *Tom recordó usar su tarjeta de crédito en la tienda* |

***And here are some more verbs followed by 'to' and the infinitive:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **expect\*** | They expect **to arrive** early / they expect Julie **to arrive** early  *esperan que Julie llegue temprano* |
| **intend** | We intend **to visit** you next spring.  *Tenemos la intención de visitarte la próxima primavera* |
| **pretend** | The child pretended **to be** a monster.  *El niño pretendía ser un monstruo* |
| **refuse** | The guard refused **to let** them enter the building.  *El guardia se negó a dejarlos entrar al edificio* |
| **tend** | He tends **to be** a little shy.  *Tiende a ser un poco tímido* |
| **would prefer\*** | I'd prefer **to do** it / I'd prefer him **to do** it.  *Prefiero que lo haga* |
| **deserve** | He deserves **to go** to jail.  *Se merece ir a la carcel* |
| **appear** | His health appeared **to be** better.  *Su salud parecía ser mejor* |
| **arrange** | Naomi arranged **to stay** with her cousin in Miami.  *Naomi arregló quedarse con su prima en Miami* |
| **claim** | She claimed **to be** a princess.  *Ella decía ser una princesa* |

\*We can use an object before the infinitive with these verbs

***Finally, these verbs can be followed by either the gerund or the infinitive with a change in meaning.***

**Remember + gerund** This is when you remember something that has happened in the past. You have a memory of it, like being able to see a movie of it in your head.

*I remember going to the beach when I was a child*. (= I have a memory of going to the beach).

*He remembers closing the door*. (= He has a memory of closing the door).

**Remember + to + infinitive** This is when you think of something that you need to do. (And usually, you then do the thing).

*I remembered to buy milk*. (= I was walking home and the idea that I needed milk came into my head, so I bought some).

*She remembered to send a card to her grandmother.*

**Forget + gerund** This is the opposite of remember + gerund. It's when you forget about a memory, something that you've done in the past.

Have we really studied this topic before? I forget reading about it.

I told my brother that we'd spent Christmas at Granny's house in 1985, but he'd forgotten going there.

**Forget + to + infinitive** This is the opposite of remember + to + infinitive. It's when you want to do something, but you forget about it.

I forgot to call my mother. (= I wanted to call my mother, but when it was a good time to call her, I forgot. I was thinking about something else, and the idea to call my mother didn't come into my head).

She keeps forgetting to bring his book back.

**Try + gerund** This is when you do something as an experiment. The thing you do is not difficult, but you want to see if doing it will have the result that you want.

I wanted to stop smoking, so I tried using nicotine patches. (= Using nicotine patches was easy, but I wanted to know if it would help me stop smoking).

She tried giving up chocolate, but it didn't help her lose weight. (It was easy for her to give up chocolate. She gave it up to see if it would help her lose weight, but it didn't).

**Try + to + infinitive** This is when the thing you do itself is difficult and you don't succeed in doing it.

I tried to lift the suitcase, but it was too heavy.

She tried to catch the bus, but she couldn't run fast enough.

*Look at the difference*:I tried giving up chocolate (it was no problem to stop eating chocolate) but it didn't make me feel more healthy.

I tried to give up chocolate, but it was too hard. I always ate some when my friends offered it to me.

It was too hot in the room. I tried opening the window (it was easy to open the window). It didn't help though, because it was very hot outside too.

tried to open the window, but I couldn't because it was stuck. 12

**Stop + gerund** When we stop doing something it means the verb in the gerund is the thing that we stop. It can mean 'stop forever' or 'stop at that moment'.

I stopped working when I was expecting a baby. (Working is the thing I stopped).

My grandmother stopped driving when she was 85. (Driving is the thing she stopped).

My boss came into the room, so I stopped browsing the internet.

There was a fire alarm, so I stopped eating and went outside.

**Stop + to + infinitive** In this case, we stop something else in order to do the verb in the infinitive.

I stopped to eat lunch. (I stopped something else, maybe working or studying, because I wanted to eat lunch.

She was shopping and she stopped to get a cup of coffee. (She stopped shopping because she wanted to get a cup of coffee).

*Look at the difference*:I stopped smoking. (I gave up cigarettes OR I threw away my cigarette at that moment).

I stopped to smoke. (I stopped doing something else because I wanted to have a cigarette).

**Regret + gerund** This is when you are sorry about something you did in the past and you wish you hadn't done it.

I regret going to bed so late. I'm really tired today.

She regrets leaving school when she was sixteen. She wishes that she had studied more and then gone to university.

**Regret + to + infinitive** We use this construction when we are giving someone bad news, in quite a formal way. The verb is almost always something like 'say' or 'tell' or 'inform'.

I regret to tell you that the train has been delayed.

The company regrets to inform employees that the London office will close next year.