



Infinitive and Gerund After Verbs

Grammar > Intermediate 6



Exercise 1 – Learning

Verb + Infinitive Only

Some verbs are followed only by the infinitive. These verbs cannot be followed by a gerund.

- He **agreed** *to climb* Mt. Everest with me.
- He **promised** *to climb* Mt. Everest with me.
- I **hope** *to climb* Mt. Everest.
- He **decided** *to climb* Mt. Everest.
- I **managed** *to climb* Mt. Everest.

'Agree/promise/hope/decide/manage climbing' is **incorrect!**

Verbs only followed by infinitives include:

Want, expect, intend, decide, hesitate, wish, hope, promise, plan, offer, agree, manage, pretend.



Verb + Gerund Only

Some verbs are followed only by the gerund. These verbs cannot be followed by the infinitive.

- They **discussed** *climbing* Mt. Everest.
- She **suggested** *climbing* Mt. Everest.
- I **enjoyed** *climbing* Mt. Everest.
- I **postponed** *climbing* Mt. Everest due to a health problem.

The following verbs are in this category:

Finish, enjoy, appreciate, miss, admit, mind, avoid, escape, postpone, permit, suggest.



Verb + Infinitive/Gerund

Some verbs can be followed by either the infinitive or the gerund with the same meaning.

The following verbs are in this category: **like, love, start, begin**.

- I **like** *hiking*.
- I **like** *to hike*.
- They **continued** *to argue* throughout the night.
- They **continued** *arguing* throughout the night.

Some verbs can be followed by both the infinitive and gerund, but the meaning differs. For example, “**stop to do something**” and “**stop doing something**” have different meanings.

The following verbs are in this category: **stop, forget, remember, regret**.

- I **stopped** *inviting* him to my parties. (= I used to invite him, but no longer do)
- I **stopped** *to admire* the view. (= I was hiking, but stood still to look at the view)
- I **regretted** *inviting* him to the party. (= I wish I had not invited him)
- I **regret** *to inform* you that our company will not be hiring you. (= I am sorry to have to tell you this)



Exercise 2 – Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences. There can be more than one correct answer.

1. I decided _____ smoking.

- a) to quit
- b) quitting

2. I hope _____ you again.

- a) to see
- b) seeing

3. I promised _____.

- a) to return
- b) returning

4. She managed _____ the problem.

- a) to solve
- b) solving



5. It started _____.

- a) to rain
- b) raining

6. She hates _____.

- a) to exercise
- b) exercising

7. The law doesn't allow _____ in restaurants.

- a) to smoke
- b) smoking

8. We appreciate you _____.

- a) to come
- b) coming



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: decide + infinitive. → We decided to live in New York.

Content:

1. discuss + gerund.
2. prefer + infinitive.
3. imagine + gerund.
4. consider + gerund.
5. wish + infinitive.
6. prepare + infinitive.