

Verbs + full infinitive or -ing form with a change in meaning [Unit 17]

Some verbs can be followed by the full infinitive or the -ing form. The choice depends on the meaning.

Verb	Meaning	Example
remember + full infinitive	do something you are/were planning to do	<i>I'm glad I remembered to do my homework.</i>
remember + -ing	think of a past event	<i>I remember teachers at my school hitting children when they were naughty!</i>
forget + full infinitive	not do something you are/were planning to do	<i>I forgot to turn up for my driving test yesterday. How silly!</i>
forget + -ing	not be able to remember a past event	<i>I'll never forget taking my driving test for the first time. It was awful!</i>
try + full infinitive	make an effort to achieve something	<i>I'm really going to try to pass these exams.</i>
try + -ing	do something as an experiment to solve a problem	<i>If you don't know what that word means, try looking it up in a dictionary.</i>
stop + full infinitive	interrupt an action to do something else	<i>I was busy writing an essay but I had to stop to answer the phone.</i>
stop + -ing	stop an action	<i>Please stop talking!</i>
go on + full infinitive	stop one action and start another	<i>Jared attended Chichester Comprehensive and then went on to study philosophy at Cambridge.</i>
go on + -ing	continue	<i>The kids went on laughing even after the teacher had told them to stop.</i>
learn / teach + full infinitive	learn/teach a skill	<i>I'd love to learn to paint well.</i>
learn / teach + -ing	learn/teach a subject	<i>She teaches painting at a local adult education centre.</i>
like + full infinitive	be in the habit of; think it right to do	<i>We like to interview candidates in person before offering them a place on the course.</i>
like + -ing	enjoy	<i>Do you like learning foreign languages?</i>
mean + full infinitive	intend	<i>I didn't mean to cheat. I just happened to see Helen's book.</i>
mean + -ing	involve	<i>Being at university often means learning to live on your own.</i>
regret + full infinitive	be sorry about giving someone bad news	<i>We regret to inform you that your application has been rejected.</i>
regret + -ing	be sorry about what (has) happened	<i>I regret leaving school with no qualifications.</i>
consider / imagine + full infinitive	believe; think something is/was	<i>Everyone considers it to be the best grammar book on the market. I imagine him to be a very good teacher.</i>
consider / imagine + -ing	think about	<i>I'm considering going to evening classes. Imagine being a graduate!</i>