

Gerunds and infinitives

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/627/04/>

Verbs that take only infinitives as verbal direct objects

agree	decide	expect	hesitate
learn	need	promise	neglect
hope	want	plan	attempt
propose	intend	pretend	

Examples:

He promised *to go* on a diet.
(**not:** He promised *going* on a diet. *)

They agreed *to sign* the treaty.
(**not:** They agreed *signing* the treaty.*)

Because she was nervous, she hesitated *to speak*.
(**not:** Because she was nervous, she hesitated *speaking*.)

Verbs that take only gerunds as verbal direct objects

deny	risk	delay	consider
can't help	keep	give up	be fond of
finish	quit	put off	practice
postpone	tolerate	suggest	stop (quit)
regret	enjoy	keep (on)	dislike
admit	avoid	recall	mind
miss	detest	appreciate	recommend
get/be through	get/be tired of	get/be accustomed to	get/be used to

admit	complete	resist	mind
appreciate	anticipate	imagine	resent
mention	discuss	recall	suggest
dislike	risk	tolerate	understand

Examples:

They always avoid *drinking* before driving.
(**not:** They always avoid *to drink* before driving.*)

I recall *asking* her that question.
(**not:** I recall *to ask* her that question.*)

Verbs that take gerunds or infinitives as verbal direct objects

start	begin	continue	hate
prefer	like	love	try
remember			

Examples:

She has continued *to work* at the store.
She has continued *working* at the store.

They like *to go* to the movies.
They like *going* to the movies.

Brent started *to walk* home.
Brent started *walking* home.

Forget and remember

These two verbs change meaning depending on whether a gerund or infinitive is used as the object.

Examples:

Jack forgets *to take* out the cat.
(He regularly forgets.)
Jack forgets *taking* out the cat.
(He did it, but he doesn't remember now.)

Jack forgot *to take* out the cat.
(He never did it.)
Jack forgot *taking* out the cat.
(He did it, but he didn't remember sometime later.)

Gerunds and infinitives exercise: fill in the appropriate form:

1. Because she loved English, Lisa refused _____ (speak) any other language.
2. The salesperson altered his pitch _____ (suit) each potential buyer.
3. One can earn lots of money by _____ insurance policies. (sell)
4. Teenagers enjoy _____ to new pop music. (listen)
5. The most important thing _____ (do) is not always obvious.
6. _____ (keep) the roads clear, the police blocked the traffic.
7. _____ too much for his services was the cause of his downfall. (charge)
8. Hours of _____ the newspaper tired her eyes. (edit)
9. The student had four questions _____ (ask) the lecturer after class.
10. _____ (do) well in that class, you must spend hours _____ (read)
11. I am demoting the officer for _____ orders. (disobey)
12. Every day the students enjoyed _____ a few laps. (swim)
13. Without _____ for the test, chances are you will fail. (study)
14. The zoo keepers hated _____ the animals' cages. (clean)
15. _____ your computer screen should be done carefully. (clean)
16. The director finally found the best actor _____ (play) that difficult role.
17. The researchers are attempting _____ (gain) approval _____ (experiment) on animals.