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The Infinitive and the gerund

**Some verbs can be followed by an infinitive, a gerund or both.  If both are possible, then there is usually a difference in meaning.  Here is a list of some of these verbs:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **+ inf** | **+ inf with *to*** | **+ gerund** | **+ inf or gerund** | **+ inf with *to* or gerund** | **+ object + inf with *to* or gerund** | **+ object + *to*** |
| help | agree | appreciate | hear | attempt | Admit | advise |
| make | appear | avoid | see | begin | Allow | assist |
| let | arrange | burst out | watch | can't bear | Consider | beg |
| had better | ask | can't stand |  | continue | Forbid | bribe |
|  | attempt | contemplate |  | forget | Imagine | command |
|  | choose | delay |  | go on | Permit | dare |
|  | dare | deny |  | hate | Require | employ |
|  | decide | detest |  | intend |  | enable |
|  | demand | dislike |  | love |  | encourage |
|  | deserve | endure |  | mean |  | instruct |
|  | expect | enjoy |  | plan |  | invite |
|  | fail | escape |  | prefer |  | lead |
|  | grow | excuse |  | propose |  | order |
|  | happen | face |  | regret |  | persuade |
|  | hasten | fancy |  | remember |  | select |
|  | help | feel like |  | start |  | send |
|  | hope | finish |  | stop |  | teach |
|  | hurry | give up |  | try |  | tell |
|  | learn | involve |  |  |  | train |
|  | long | it's no good/use |  |  |  | urge |
|  | make *(passive)* | keep on  **The rule is that:**   1. **If the action after the verb hasn’t started, we use the infinitive.**   Example: I agree **to help** you. (I’ll help you later. I haven’t helped you.)  **2. If the action after the verb has already started, we use the gerund**.  Example: I regret **helping** you. (I**’ve** already **helped** you. The action of help **has** already **started**.) |  |  |  | warn |
|  | manag e | leave off |  |  |  |  |
|  | neglect | mention |  |  |  |  |
|  | offer | mind |  |  |  |  |
|  | pay | miss |  |  |  |  |
|  | plan | postpone |  |  |  |  |
|  | pledge | practise |  |  |  |  |
|  | pretend | put off |  |  |  |  |
|  | promise | resent |  |  |  |  |
|  | refuse | risk |  |  |  |  |
|  | resolve | spend/waste time |  |  |  |  |
|  | seek | suggest |  |  |  |  |
|  | seem | want *(coll.)* |  |  |  |  |
|  | struggle |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | swear |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | threaten |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | want |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | wish |  |  |  |  |  |

**1** Fill the gaps with the verb in brackets in the appropriate form.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | I **can't stand** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in queues. ( to wait ) |
| 2 | I wouldn't like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his shoes. ( to be ) |
| 3 | Jim loves \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Thailand. ( to work ) |
| 4 | I **hate** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the shopping on Saturday. ( to do ) |
| 5 | Blast! I forgot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ milk. ( to buy ) |
| 6 | In the end we decided \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in. ( to stay ) |
| 7 | I **need** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ some information about Portugal. ( to find ) |
| 8 | My parents **like** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for long walks at the weekend. ( to go ) |
| 9 | Tony gave up \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years ago. ( to smoke ) |
| 10 | I wanted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and see Troy but no one else was interested. ( to go ) |
| 11 | Mrs Leith offered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to the airport. ( to take ) |
| 12 | Clare refused \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ clean up after the party. ( to help ) |
| 13 | I tried \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him to come but it was no use. ( to persuade ) |
| 14 | Do you **mind** not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ? ( to smoke ) |
| 15 | Everybody really enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the cha-cha-cha. ( to dance ) |
| 16 | Lionel admitted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my chocolate mousse. ( to eat ) |