

# GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES



Gerunds (doing, seeing, going, etc.) and infinitives (to do, to see, to go, etc.) are words that are derived from **verbs** but function as other parts of speech (mostly **nouns**). Using them correctly can be troublesome because some verbs are followed by infinitives, some by gerunds, and some by either. The following lists should prove helpful.



## Verbs Followed by Infinitives

attempt	hope	plan
choose	intend	pretend
decide	learn	promise
expect	mean (intend)	want
fail	need	wish

*e.g., I **expected to finish** the exam in two hours, but I failed to keep track of the time.*

## Verbs Followed by Gerunds

appreciate	enjoy	quit
avoid	finish	recall
consider	involve	recommend
deny	keep	resent
dislike	mind	risk

*e.g., He **denied being** at the scene of the accident and resented having to deny his responsibility.*

The following verb phrases are also followed by gerunds:

have difficulty	spend time	waste time
have trouble	spend money	waste money
have a problem/problems		waste energy

*e.g., I don't want to **waste time going** to a movie that I'm not interested in.*

## Verbs Followed by Infinitives or Gerunds (where choice does not affect meaning)

begin	love	like
hate	start	propose
prefer	try	

*e.g., Let's **begin to think** about the assignment.*

*e.g., Let's **begin thinking** about the assignment.*

## Verbs Followed by Infinitives or Gerunds (where choice does affect meaning)

mean  
intend  
go on

remember  
forget  
regret

stop  
try

For these verbs, the infinitive looks to the **future**, while using the gerund looks to the **past**.

*e.g., I have to **remember to buy** bread.*

In this case, to buy looks to the future.

*e.g., I **remember buying** bread.*

In this case, buying the bread happened in the past.