

COMPLETE REFERENCE MANUAL

The Ultimate Guide to English Verb Patterns

Mastering Gerunds & Infinitives
with Correct vs. Incorrect Examples



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- 62 Verbs that take Gerunds (-ing)
- 64 Verbs that take Infinitives (to + verb)
 - 10 Verbs with Flexible Dual Usage
 - 7 Critical Verbs with Meaning Shifts

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About the Author



Himanshu Yadav is an English educator and content creator dedicated to helping learners master practical, high-impact grammar with clarity and confidence. Through clear explanations, real-world examples, and carefully designed materials, he makes complex English structures simple and memorable.

This professional reference guide is part of his ongoing mission to provide high-quality, exam-ready and real-life English resources for students, teachers, and professionals worldwide.

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About This Guide

This professional reference manual is designed for English learners, teachers, writers, and professionals who want absolute clarity on one of the most common sources of grammatical error: verb patterns with gerunds and infinitives.

Every entry includes clear **correct** examples and the most frequent **incorrect** forms so you can train your ear and eye to recognize the right structure instantly. The book is organized into four practical sections that progress from exclusive patterns to the subtle meaning shifts that even advanced speakers sometimes miss.

Whether you are preparing for exams (IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge), writing professional emails, or teaching English, this guide gives you a reliable, ready-to-use reference you can return to again and again.

Table of Contents

1. Verbs Followed Exclusively by Gerunds (-ing)

62 essential verbs that require an -ing form

2. Verbs Followed Exclusively by Infinitives (to + verb)

64 essential verbs that require the full infinitive

3. Verbs with Flexible Usage (No Meaning Change)

10 verbs that accept both forms with the same meaning

4. Verbs with Meaning Shifts (Critical Nuances)

7 verbs whose meaning changes completely with the structure

Quick Study Tips

Practical advice to lock the patterns into long-term memory

How to use this book: Read the introductory note for each part, then study the correct and incorrect pairs. Focus especially on Part 4 — these seven verbs are the ones that most frequently cause confusion even among advanced users.

Himanshu Yadav English

Part 1: Verbs Followed by Gerunds (-ing)

These verbs must be followed directly by a gerund (verb + -ing). Using an infinitive (to + verb) after them is a common grammatical error in both spoken and written English. Master these 62 patterns and you will immediately sound more natural and accurate.

1. Abhor

- ✓ She abhors waking up early on weekends.
- ✗ Wrong: She abhors to wake up early on weekends.
- ✓ They abhor waiting in long lines at the airport.
- ✗ Wrong: They abhor wait in long lines at the airport.

2. Acknowledge

- ✓ He acknowledged making a mistake in the report.
- ✗ Wrong: He acknowledged to make a mistake in the report.
- ✓ The company acknowledged receiving the customer's feedback.
- ✗ Wrong: The company acknowledged to receive the customer's feedback.

3. Admit

- ✓ She admitted taking the last piece of cake.
- ✗ Wrong: She admitted to take the last piece of cake.
- ✓ He admitted breaking the window by accident.
- ✗ Wrong: He admitted break the window by accident.

4. Advise

- ✓ The doctor advises exercising regularly.
- ✗ Wrong: The doctor advises to exercise regularly.
- ✓ I advise saving money for emergencies.
- ✗ Wrong: I advise to save money for emergencies.

5. Allow

- ✓ The museum does not allow taking photographs.
- ✗ Wrong: The museum does not allow to take photographs.
- ✓ They don't allow smoking inside the building.
- ✗ Wrong: They don't allow to smoke inside the building.

6. Anticipate

- ✓ We anticipate arriving before noon.
- ✗ Wrong: We anticipate to arrive before noon.
- ✓ She anticipates encountering some delays.
- ✗ Wrong: She anticipates to encounter some delays.

7. Appreciate

- ✓ I appreciate your helping me with this project.
- ✗ Wrong: I appreciate you to help me with this project.
- ✓ We appreciate having you as our guest.
- ✗ Wrong: We appreciate to have you as our guest.

8. Avoid

- ✓ You should avoid driving during rush hour.
- ✗ Wrong: You should avoid to drive during rush hour.
- ✓ He avoids eating junk food before bedtime.
- ✗ Wrong: He avoids to eat junk food before bedtime.

9. Be worth

- ✓ That movie is worth watching again.
- ✗ Wrong: That movie is worth to watch again.
- ✓ The museum is worth visiting.
- ✗ Wrong: The museum is worth to visit.

10. Can't help

- ✓ I can't help laughing at his jokes.
- ✗ Wrong: I can't help to laugh at his jokes.
- ✓ She couldn't help feeling nervous.
- ✗ Wrong: She couldn't help to feel nervous.

11. Celebrate

- ✓ We celebrated winning the championship.
- ✗ Wrong: We celebrated to win the championship.
- ✓ They celebrated completing the deal.
- ✗ Wrong: They celebrated to complete the deal.

12. Confess

- ✓ He confessed stealing the money from the safe.
- ✗ Wrong: He confessed to steal the money from the safe.
- ✓ She confessed cheating on the final test.
- ✗ Wrong: She confessed to cheat on the final test.

13. Consider

- ✓ Are you considering moving to a new city?
- ✗ Wrong: Are you considering to move to a new city?
- ✓ We considered buying a house.
- ✗ Wrong: We considered to buy a house.

14. Defend

- ✓ He defended using the new method.
- ✗ Wrong: He defended to use the new method.
- ✓ She defended taking a gap year.
- ✗ Wrong: She defended to take a gap year.

15. Delay

- ✓ They delayed launching the product.
- ✗ Wrong: They delayed to launch the product.
- ✓ Please don't delay replying to the email.
- ✗ Wrong: Please don't delay to reply to the email.

16. Detest

- ✓ I detest cleaning the bathroom tiles.
- ✗ Wrong: I detest to clean the bathroom tiles.
- ✓ She detests listening to loud music.
- ✗ Wrong: She detests to listen to loud music.

17. Discontinue

- ✓ The brand discontinued selling that model.
- ✗ Wrong: The brand discontinued to sell that model.
- ✓ They discontinued manufacturing old parts.
- ✗ Wrong: They discontinued to manufacture old parts.

18. Discuss

- ✓ We discussed going to Japan.
- ✗ Wrong: We discussed to go to Japan.
- ✓ The committee discussed hiring more staff.
- ✗ Wrong: The committee discussed to hire more staff.

19. Dislike

- ✓ He dislikes working late at night.
- ✗ Wrong: He dislikes to work late at night.
- ✓ I dislike eating raw fish.
- ✗ Wrong: I dislike to eat raw fish.

20. Dispute

- ✓ They disputed paying the extra fees.
- ✗ Wrong: They disputed to pay the extra fees.
- ✓ He disputed having any involvement.
- ✗ Wrong: He disputed to have any involvement.

21. Dread

- ✓ I dread going to the dentist.
- ✗ Wrong: I dread to go to the dentist.
- ✓ She dreads taking public speaking tests.
- ✗ Wrong: She dreads to take public speaking tests.

22. Endure

- ✓ He endured standing in the rain.
- ✗ Wrong: He endured to stand in the rain.
- ✓ How can you endure listening to that noise?
- ✗ Wrong: How can you endure to listen to that noise?

23. Enjoy

- ✓ She enjoys reading historical novels.
- ✗ Wrong: She enjoys to read historical novels.
- ✓ We enjoy spending time with our family.
- ✗ Wrong: We enjoy to spend time with our family.

24. Escape

- ✓ He barely escaped getting injured.
- ✗ Wrong: He barely escaped to get injured.
- ✓ They escaped paying taxes.
- ✗ Wrong: They escaped to pay taxes.

25. Evade

- ✓ The politician evaded answering questions.
- ✗ Wrong: The politician evaded to answer questions.
- ✓ He was caught trying to evade paying his bill.
- ✗ Wrong: He was caught trying to evade to pay his bill.

26. Explain

- ✓ He explained doing the procedure step by step.
- ✗ Wrong: He explained to do the procedure step by step.
- ✓ She explained using the new software.
- ✗ Wrong: She explained to use the new software.

27. Fancy

- ✓ Do you fancy going out for dinner?
- ✗ Wrong: Do you fancy to go out for dinner?
- ✓ I don't fancy walking in the cold.
- ✗ Wrong: I don't fancy to walk in the cold.

28. Fear

- ✓ He fears losing his job during layoffs.
- ✗ Wrong: He fears to lose his job during layoffs.
- ✓ She fears traveling alone.
- ✗ Wrong: She fears to travel alone.

29. Feel like

- ✓ I feel like eating pizza today.
- ✗ Wrong: I feel like to eat pizza today.
- ✓ She didn't feel like attending the meeting.
- ✗ Wrong: She didn't feel like to attend the meeting.

30. Feign

- ✓ He feigned sleeping when his mom came.
- ✗ Wrong: He feigned to sleep when his mom came.
- ✓ She feigned knowing the answer.
- ✗ Wrong: She feigned to know the answer.

31. Finish

- ✓ I finished writing the article this morning.
- ✗ Wrong: I finished to write the article this morning.
- ✓ Please let me finish speaking.
- ✗ Wrong: Please let me finish to speak.

32. Forgive

- ✓ Please forgive my interrupting you.
- ✗ Wrong: Please forgive me to interrupt you.
- ✓ She forgave him for forgetting her birthday.
- ✗ Wrong: She forgave him to forget her birthday.

33. Give up (stop)

- ✓ He gave up smoking two years ago.
- ✗ Wrong: He gave up to smoke two years ago.
- ✓ Don't give up trying.
- ✗ Wrong: Don't give up to try.

34. Keep (continue)

- ✓ Keep walking until you reach the corner.
- ✗ Wrong: Keep to walk until you reach the corner.
- ✓ She keeps calling me every afternoon.
- ✗ Wrong: She keeps to call me every afternoon.

35. Keep on

- ✓ They kept on dancing despite the noise.
- ✗ Wrong: They kept on to dance despite the noise.
- ✓ If you keep on complaining, we will leave.
- ✗ Wrong: If you keep on to complain, we will leave.

36. Mention

- ✓ She mentioned visiting her grandmother.
- ✗ Wrong: She mentioned to visit her grandmother.
- ✓ Did he mention buying a new car?
- ✗ Wrong: Did he mention to buy a new car?

37. Mind (object to)

- ✓ Would you mind opening the window?
- ✗ Wrong: Would you mind to open the window?
- ✓ I don't mind waiting a few more minutes.
- ✗ Wrong: I don't mind to wait a few more minutes.

38. Miss

- ✓ He misses playing with his friends.
- ✗ Wrong: He misses to play with his friends.
- ✓ I miss living in London.
- ✗ Wrong: I miss to live in London.

39. Necessitate

- ✓ The upgrade necessitates rebooting.
- ✗ Wrong: The upgrade necessitates to reboot.
- ✓ This strategy necessitates making decisions.
- ✗ Wrong: This strategy necessitates to make decisions.

40. Omit

- ✓ He omitted mentioning his job history.
- ✗ Wrong: He omitted to mention his job history.
- ✓ The recipe omitted adding salt.
- ✗ Wrong: The recipe omitted to add salt.

41. Permit

- ✓ The school does not permit running in halls.
- ✗ Wrong: The school does not permit to run in halls.
- ✓ We don't permit parking here.
- ✗ Wrong: We don't permit to park here.

42. Picture

- ✓ I can picture living in a beach house.
- ✗ Wrong: I can picture to live in a beach house.
- ✓ She pictured herself winning the competition.
- ✗ Wrong: She pictured herself to win the competition.

43. Postpone

- ✓ They postponed hosting the event.
- ✗ Wrong: They postponed to host the event.
- ✓ We had to postpone making our decision.
- ✗ Wrong: We had to postpone to make our decision.

44. Practice

- ✓ You need to practice speaking English.
- ✗ Wrong: You need to practice to speak English.
- ✓ He practiced playing the piano piece.
- ✗ Wrong: He practiced to play the piano piece.

45. Prevent

- ✓ Bad weather prevented us from taking the flight.
- ✗ Wrong: Bad weather prevented us to take the flight.
- ✓ Safety measures prevent accidents from happening.
- ✗ Wrong: Safety measures prevent accidents to happen.

46. Put off

- ✓ Don't put off doing your homework.
- ✗ Wrong: Don't put off to do your homework.
- ✓ They put off cleaning the garage.
- ✗ Wrong: They put off to clean the garage.

47. Recall

- ✓ I don't recall turning off the stove.
- ✗ Wrong: I don't recall to turn off the stove.
- ✓ She recalled meeting him at a conference.
- ✗ Wrong: She recalled to meet him at a conference.

48. Recollect

- ✓ He couldn't recollect seeing her key.
- ✗ Wrong: He couldn't recollect to see her key.
- ✓ I recollect receiving that invoice.
- ✗ Wrong: I recollect to receive that invoice.

49. Recommend

- ✓ I recommend booking your tickets early.
- ✗ Wrong: I recommend to book your tickets early.
- ✓ She recommended trying the restaurant.
- ✗ Wrong: She recommended to try the restaurant.

50. Report

- ✓ Witnesses reported seeing a suspicious car.
- ✗ Wrong: Witnesses reported to see a suspicious car.
- ✓ The doctor reported seeing an improvement.
- ✗ Wrong: The doctor reported to see an improvement.

51. Resent

- ✓ She resents having to work extra hours.
- ✗ Wrong: She resents to have to work extra hours.
- ✓ He resented being treated like a child.
- ✗ Wrong: He resented to be treated like a child.

52. Resist

- ✓ I couldn't resist buying those shoes.
- ✗ Wrong: I couldn't resist to buy those shoes.
- ✓ She resisted eating chocolate.
- ✗ Wrong: She resisted to eat chocolate.

53. Resume

- ✓ The team resumed playing after the rain.
- ✗ Wrong: The team resumed to play after the rain.
- ✓ Please resume working on your tasks.
- ✗ Wrong: Please resume to work on your tasks.

54. Risk

- ✓ You risk losing all your saved data.
- ✗ Wrong: You risk to lose all your saved data.
- ✓ He didn't want to risk getting caught.
- ✗ Wrong: He didn't want to risk to get caught.

55. Shirk

- ✓ He never shirks doing his share of chores.
- ✗ Wrong: He never shirks to do his share of chores.
- ✓ You shouldn't shirk fulfilling duties.
- ✗ Wrong: You shouldn't shirk to fulfill duties.

56. Shun

- ✓ She shuns attending social gatherings.
- ✗ Wrong: She shuns to attend social gatherings.
- ✓ The monk shuns using electronic devices.
- ✗ Wrong: The monk shuns to use electronic devices.

57. Suggest

- ✓ He suggested going for a walk in the park.
- ✗ Wrong: He suggested to go for a walk in the park.
- ✓ I suggest taking a short break.
- ✗ Wrong: I suggest to take a short break.

58. Support

- ✓ They support raising minimum wages.
- ✗ Wrong: They support to raise minimum wages.
- ✓ She supports building a new library.
- ✗ Wrong: She supports to build a new library.

59. Tolerate

- ✓ I cannot tolerate hearing loud sounds.
- ✗ Wrong: I cannot tolerate to hear loud sounds.
- ✓ The teacher doesn't tolerate cheating.
- ✗ Wrong: The teacher doesn't tolerate to cheat.

60. Understand

- ✓ I understand feeling upset about the news.
- ✗ Wrong: I understand to feel upset about the news.
- ✓ She understands needing time alone.
- ✗ Wrong: She understands to need time alone.

61. Urge

- ✓ Public health officials urge wearing masks.
- ✗ Wrong: Public health officials urge to wear masks.
- ✓ The study urges taking action immediately.
- ✗ Wrong: The study urges to take action immediately.

62. Warrant

- ✓ The minor issue doesn't warrant calling help.
- ✗ Wrong: The minor issue doesn't warrant to call help.
- ✓ His bad performance warrants reviewing his contract.
- ✗ Wrong: His bad performance warrants to review his contract.

Part 2: Verbs Followed by Infinitives (to + verb)

These verbs require a full infinitive structure (to + base verb). Using a gerund directly after them is grammatically incorrect in standard English. The list below covers 64 of the most frequent and useful verbs that follow this pattern.

1. Agree

- ✓ They agreed to pay for the damages.
- ✗ Wrong: They agreed paying for the damages.
- ✓ She agreed to sign the new contract.
- ✗ Wrong: She agreed signing the new contract.

2. Appear

- ✓ The engine appears to be working fine.
- ✗ Wrong: The engine appears being working fine.
- ✓ He appears to know everyone at the party.
- ✗ Wrong: He appears knowing everyone at the party.

3. Arrange

- ✓ I arranged to meet him at the library.
- ✗ Wrong: I arranged meeting him at the library.
- ✓ We arranged to pick up the keys tomorrow.
- ✗ Wrong: We arranged picking up the keys tomorrow.

4. Ask

- ✓ He asked to join our project team.
- ✗ Wrong: He asked joining our project team.
- ✓ She asked to speak with the manager.
- ✗ Wrong: She asked speaking with the manager.

5. Attempt

- ✓ The runner attempted to break the record.
- ✗ Wrong: The runner attempted breaking the record.
- ✓ Do not attempt to open the panel.
- ✗ Wrong: Do not attempt opening the panel.

6. Beg

- ✓ The child begged to stay up a little longer.
- ✗ Wrong: The child begged staying up a little longer.
- ✓ He begged to have one more chance.
- ✗ Wrong: He begged having one more chance.

7. Can/Can't afford

- ✓ I can't afford to buy a new car.
- ✗ Wrong: I can't afford buying a new car.
- ✓ She can afford to take a long vacation.
- ✗ Wrong: She can afford taking a long vacation.

8. Can/Can't wait

- ✓ I can't wait to see my family.
- ✗ Wrong: I can't wait seeing my family.
- ✓ The kids can't wait to open presents.
- ✗ Wrong: The kids can't wait opening presents.

9. Care

- ✓ Would you care to join us for coffee?
- ✗ Wrong: Would you care joining us for coffee?
- ✓ I don't care to argue about politics.
- ✗ Wrong: I don't care arguing about politics.

10. Chance

- ✓ I chanced to meet an old friend.
- ✗ Wrong: I chanced meeting an old friend.
- ✓ If you chance to find my keys, call me.
- ✗ Wrong: If you chance finding my keys, call me.

11. Choose

- ✓ She chose to study medicine.
- ✗ Wrong: She chose studying medicine.
- ✓ They chose to stay at home.
- ✗ Wrong: They chose staying at home.

12. Claim

- ✓ He claims to have evidence.
- ✗ Wrong: He claims having evidence.
- ✓ She claims to know the secret recipe.
- ✗ Wrong: She claims knowing the secret recipe.

13. Come

- ✓ Over time, I came to appreciate modern art.
- ✗ Wrong: Over time, I came appreciating modern art.
- ✓ He came to realize how important family was.
- ✗ Wrong: He came realizing how important family was.

14. Consent

- ✓ The patient consented to undergo surgery.
- ✗ Wrong: The patient consented undergoing surgery.
- ✓ She consented to lend us her car.
- ✗ Wrong: She consented lending us her car.

15. Dare

- ✓ He didn't dare to cross the shaky bridge.
- ✗ Wrong: He didn't dare crossing the shaky bridge.
- ✓ No one dares to question his authority.
- ✗ Wrong: No one dares questioning his authority.

16. Decide

- ✓ We decided to travel by train.
- ✗ Wrong: We decided traveling by train.
- ✓ She decided to accept the job offer.
- ✗ Wrong: She decided accepting the job offer.

17. Demand

- ✓ The customer demanded to see the manager.
- ✗ Wrong: The customer demanded seeing the manager.
- ✓ They demanded to know the truth.
- ✗ Wrong: They demanded knowing the truth.

18. Deserve

- ✓ You deserve to win the award.
- ✗ Wrong: You deserve winning the award.
- ✓ He deserves to get a second chance.
- ✗ Wrong: He deserves getting a second chance.

19. Determine

- ✓ She determined to master the language.
- ✗ Wrong: She determined mastering the language.
- ✓ The team determined to finish on time.
- ✗ Wrong: The team determined finishing on time.

20. Elect

- ✓ The board elected to postpone the election.
- ✗ Wrong: The board elected postponing the election.
- ✓ Many workers elected to retire early.
- ✗ Wrong: Many workers elected retiring early.

21. Endeavor

- ✓ We will endeavor to complete the work.
- ✗ Wrong: We will endeavor completing the work.
- ✓ She endeavors to provide accurate info.
- ✗ Wrong: She endeavors providing accurate info.

22. Expect

- ✓ We expect to arrive around 6 PM.
- ✗ Wrong: We expect arriving around 6 PM.
- ✓ He expects to pass the exam without trouble.
- ✗ Wrong: He expects passing the exam without trouble.

23. Fail

- ✓ He failed to submit the assignment.
- ✗ Wrong: He failed submitting the assignment.
- ✓ Never fail to check your oil level.
- ✗ Wrong: Never fail checking your oil level.

24. Get

- ✓ How did you get to meet such a famous artist?
- ✗ Wrong: How did you get meeting such a famous artist?
- ✓ I hope I get to visit Japan next year.
- ✗ Wrong: I hope I get visiting Japan next year.

25. Grow (up)

- ✓ She grew up to become a successful surgeon.
- ✗ Wrong: She grew up becoming a successful surgeon.
- ✓ As time passed, I grew to like spicy food.
- ✗ Wrong: As time passed, I grew liking spicy food.

26. Guarantee

- ✓ The store guarantees to refund your money.
- ✗ Wrong: The store guarantees refunding your money.
- ✓ We guarantee to deliver in two days.
- ✗ Wrong: We guarantee delivering in two days.

27. Hesitate

- ✓ Don't hesitate to contact me.
- ✗ Wrong: Don't hesitate contacting me.
- ✓ She hesitated to answer the question.
- ✗ Wrong: She hesitated answering the question.

28. Hope

- ✓ I hope to see you again very soon.
- ✗ Wrong: I hope seeing you again very soon.
- ✓ They hope to buy a house next summer.
- ✗ Wrong: They hope buying a house next summer.

29. Hurry

- ✓ We hurried to catch the last train.
- ✗ Wrong: We hurried catching the last train.
- ✓ She hurried to finish her assignment.
- ✗ Wrong: She hurried finishing her assignment.

30. Incline

- ✓ I incline to believe his side of the story.
- ✗ Wrong: I incline believing his side of the story.
- ✓ Temperatures incline to rise late afternoon.
- ✗ Wrong: Temperatures incline rising late afternoon.

31. Learn

- ✓ She is learning to speak Spanish.
- ✗ Wrong: She is learning speaking Spanish.
- ✓ He learned to drive when he was sixteen.
- ✗ Wrong: He learned driving when he was sixteen.

32. Manage

- ✓ He managed to solve the problem.
- ✗ Wrong: He managed solving the problem.
- ✓ Did you manage to catch your flight?
- ✗ Wrong: Did you manage catching your flight?

33. Mean

- ✓ I didn't mean to hurt your feelings.
- ✗ Wrong: I didn't mean hurting your feelings.
- ✓ She means to start her workout today.
- ✗ Wrong: She means starting her workout today.

34. Need

- ✓ You need to drink more water daily.
- ✗ Wrong: You need drinking more water daily.
- ✓ We need to leave right now.
- ✗ Wrong: We need leaving right now.

35. Neglect

- ✓ He neglected to lock the door.
- ✗ Wrong: He neglected locking the door.
- ✓ Don't neglect to check the details.
- ✗ Wrong: Don't neglect checking the details.

36. Offer

- ✓ He offered to carry my heavy suitcase.
- ✗ Wrong: He offered carrying my heavy suitcase.
- ✓ She offered to drive us to the airport.
- ✗ Wrong: She offered driving us to the airport.

37. Pay

- ✓ I paid to enter the museum exhibition.
- ✗ Wrong: I paid entering the museum exhibition.
- ✓ They paid to upgrade their seats.
- ✗ Wrong: They paid upgrading their seats.

38. Plan

- ✓ We plan to visit Rome next spring.
- ✗ Wrong: We plan visiting Rome next spring.
- ✓ She plans to launch her website.
- ✗ Wrong: She plans launching her website.

39. Prepare

- ✓ They are preparing to launch the product.
- ✗ Wrong: They are preparing launching the product.
- ✓ He prepared to present his findings.
- ✗ Wrong: He prepared presenting his findings.

40. Pretend

- ✓ He pretended to be asleep.
- ✗ Wrong: He pretended being asleep.
- ✓ She pretended not to notice his mistake.
- ✗ Wrong: She pretended not noticing his mistake.

41. Profess

- ✓ He professes to know everything.
- ✗ Wrong: He professes knowing everything.
- ✓ She professes to be an expert.
- ✗ Wrong: She professes being an expert.

42. Promise

- ✓ I promise to call you as soon as I land.
- ✗ Wrong: I promise calling you as soon as I land.
- ✓ He promised to keep the secret.
- ✗ Wrong: He promised keeping the secret.

43. Prove

- ✓ The new strategy proved to be effective.
- ✗ Wrong: The new strategy proved being effective.
- ✓ The task proved to be more difficult.
- ✗ Wrong: The task proved being more difficult.

44. Refuse

- ✓ She refused to answer his question.
- ✗ Wrong: She refused answering his question.
- ✓ They refused to accept the conditions.
- ✗ Wrong: They refused accepting the conditions.

45. Remain

- ✓ Many questions remain to be answered.
- ✗ Wrong: Many questions remain being answered.
- ✓ Much work remains to be done.
- ✗ Wrong: Much work remains being done.

46. Request

- ✓ He requested to see his records.
- ✗ Wrong: He requested seeing his records.
- ✓ She requested to change her seat.
- ✗ Wrong: She requested changing her seat.

47. Resolve

- ✓ They resolved to work through differences.
- ✗ Wrong: They resolved working through differences.
- ✓ She resolved to exercise every morning.
- ✗ Wrong: She resolved exercising every morning.

48. Say

- ✓ The report is said to be accurate.
- ✗ Wrong: The report is said being accurate.
- ✓ He is said to have built the house.
- ✗ Wrong: He is said having built the house.

49. Seek

- ✓ They seek to improve education.
- ✗ Wrong: They seek improving education.
- ✓ She seeks to expand her business.
- ✗ Wrong: She seeks expanding her business.

50. Seem

- ✓ You seem to be very tired today.
- ✗ Wrong: You seem being very tired today.
- ✓ It seems to rain every time we camp.
- ✗ Wrong: It seems raining every time we camp.

51. Shudder

- ✓ I shudder to think what could happen.
- ✗ Wrong: I shudder thinking what could happen.
- ✓ She shudders to recall that day.
- ✗ Wrong: She shudders recalling that day.

52. Strive

- ✓ We must strive to achieve excellence.
- ✗ Wrong: We must strive achieving excellence.
- ✓ She strives to maintain balance.
- ✗ Wrong: She strives maintaining balance.

53. Struggle

- ✓ He struggled to lift the heavy box.
- ✗ Wrong: He struggled lifting the heavy box.
- ✓ She struggled to keep her eyes open.
- ✗ Wrong: She struggled keeping her eyes open.

54. Swear

- ✓ He swore to tell the truth.
- ✗ Wrong: He swore telling the truth.
- ✓ She swore to protect her family.
- ✗ Wrong: She swore protecting her family.

55. Tend

- ✓ Prices tend to rise during holidays.
- ✗ Wrong: Prices tend rising during holidays.
- ✓ She tends to overthink problems.
- ✗ Wrong: She tends overthinking problems.

56. Threaten

- ✓ She threatened to quit without a raise.
- ✗ Wrong: She threatened quitting without a raise.
- ✓ Clouds threatened to ruin the wedding.
- ✗ Wrong: Clouds threatened ruining the wedding.

57. Turn out

- ✓ The event turned out to be a success.
- ✗ Wrong: The event turned out being a success.
- ✓ It turned out to be much cheaper.
- ✗ Wrong: It turned out being much cheaper.

58. Venture

- ✓ Few hikers ventured to climb the peak.
- ✗ Wrong: Few hikers ventured climbing the peak.
- ✓ I wouldn't venture to guess her age.
- ✗ Wrong: I wouldn't venture guessing her age.

59. Volunteer

- ✓ She volunteered to organize the drive.
- ✗ Wrong: She volunteered organizing the drive.
- ✓ He volunteered to clean the park.
- ✗ Wrong: He volunteered cleaning the park.

60. Wait

- ✓ We waited to hear the announcement.
- ✗ Wrong: We waited hearing the announcement.
- ✓ She waited to cross the street.
- ✗ Wrong: She waited crossing the street.

61. Want

- ✓ I want to learn how to play guitar.
- ✗ Wrong: I want learning how to play guitar.
- ✓ She wants to visit her grandparents.
- ✗ Wrong: She wants visiting her grandparents.

62. Wish

- ✓ I wish to make a complaint.
- ✗ Wrong: I wish making a complaint.
- ✓ She wishes to speak with the head.
- ✗ Wrong: She wishes speaking with the head.

63. Would like

- ✓ I would like to order water.
- ✗ Wrong: I would like ordering water.
- ✓ We would like to thank everyone.
- ✗ Wrong: We would like thanking everyone.

64. Yearn

- ✓ She yearns to return home.
- ✗ Wrong: She yearns returning home.
- ✓ They yearn to live in peace.
- ✗ Wrong: They yearn living in peace.

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Part 3: Verbs with Flexible Usage (No Meaning Change)

These 10 verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an infinitive without changing the core meaning of the sentence. Both structures are fully grammatical. Slight stylistic preferences may exist, but either form is correct.

1. Begin

- ✓ Infinitive: It began to rain heavily.
- ✓ Gerund: It began raining heavily.
- ✗ Wrong: (bare verb without to or -ing)

2. Can't bear

- ✓ Infinitive: I can't bear to watch scary movies.
- ✓ Gerund: I can't bear watching scary movies.
- ✗ Wrong: (bare verb without to or -ing)

3. Can't stand

- ✓ Infinitive: She can't stand to wait in lines.
- ✓ Gerund: She can't stand waiting in lines.
- ✗ Wrong: (bare verb without to or -ing)

4. Continue

- ✓ Infinitive: He continued to work despite noise.
- ✓ Gerund: He continued working despite noise.
- ✗ Wrong: (bare verb without to or -ing)

5. Hate

- ✓ Infinitive: I hate to wake up early on Mondays.
- ✓ Gerund: I hate waking up early on Mondays.
- ✗ Wrong: (bare verb without to or -ing)

6. Like

- ✓ Infinitive: They like to read books in the evening.
- ✓ Gerund: They like reading books in the evening.
- ✗ Wrong: (bare verb without to or -ing)

7. Love

- ✓ Infinitive: She loves to cook Italian dishes.
- ✓ Gerund: She loves cooking Italian dishes.
- ✗ Wrong: (bare verb without to or -ing)

8. Prefer

- ✓ Infinitive: We prefer to travel by train.
- ✓ Gerund: We prefer traveling by train.
- ✗ Wrong: (bare verb without to or -ing)

9. Propose

- ✓ Infinitive: The manager proposed to start early.
- ✓ Gerund: The manager proposed starting early.
- ✗ Wrong: (bare verb without to or -ing)

10. Start

- ✓ Infinitive: He started to build his portfolio.
- ✓ Gerund: He started building his portfolio.
- ✗ Wrong: (bare verb without to or -ing)

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Part 4: Verbs with Meaning Shifts (Critical Nuances)

Pay close attention to these 7 verbs. Changing between a gerund and an infinitive completely alters the meaning of the sentence. These distinctions are essential for precise, natural English and frequently appear in advanced exams and professional writing.

1. Forget

→ Infinitive (to + verb): Forgetting an obligation or task

✓ I forgot to lock the door before I left.

Meaning: The door remained unlocked because I forgot to do it.

→ Gerund (verb + -ing): Losing the memory of a past event

✓ I will never forget visiting Paris for the first time.

Meaning: I have vivid memories of going to Paris.

2. Go on

→ Infinitive (to + verb): Ending one action and transitioning to a new one

✓ After finishing her degree, she went on to become a doctor.

Meaning: She graduated first, then transitioned to her medical career.

→ Gerund (verb + -ing): Continuing the exact same ongoing activity

✓ He went on talking even after the teacher asked for silence.

Meaning: He continued the exact same action of talking.

3. Quit

→ Infinitive (to + verb): Pausing or stopping an activity for a specific purpose

✓ He quit to start his own company.

Meaning: He left this job in order to found a business.

→ Gerund (verb + -ing): Permanently discontinuing or giving up an activity

✓ She quit smoking three years ago.

Meaning: She gave up the habit entirely.

4. Regret

→ Infinitive (to + verb): Delivering bad or unwelcome news in the present

✓ We regret to inform you that your application was unsuccessful.

Meaning: We are sorry to share this news right now.

→ Gerund (verb + -ing): Feeling remorse or wishing to undo a past action

✓ He regrets buying such an expensive car.

Meaning: He bought it in the past and now feels sorry about it.

5. Remember

→ Infinitive (to + verb): Remembering a task or duty before performing it

✓ Please remember to buy milk on your way home.

Meaning: Don't forget the task you need to complete.

→ Gerund (verb + -ing): Recalling a past memory or experience

✓ I remember playing in this park when I was a child.

Meaning: I have a vivid mental memory of doing this in the past.

6. Stop

→ Infinitive (to + verb): Interrupting an activity in order to do something else

✓ On our road trip, we stopped to drink some water.

Meaning: We paused our drive so that we could drink water.

→ Gerund (verb + -ing): Ceasing or ending an action/habit completely

✓ He stopped eating sugar to improve his health.

Meaning: He ended the activity/habit of eating sugar.

7. Try

→ Infinitive (to + verb): Making a physical or mental effort to attempt something difficult

✓ I tried to lift the heavy box, but it was impossible.

Meaning: I made an effort, but failed to succeed.

→ Gerund (verb + -ing): Experimenting with a method or test to see if it solves a problem

✓ If you can't sleep, try drinking warm milk before bed.

Meaning: Experiment with this technique to see if it works.

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Quick Study Tips

1. Learn in groups. Study the exclusive gerund list and exclusive infinitive list as two separate sets. Your brain will start to recognize the patterns automatically.
2. Focus on the “Big 7”. Forget, remember, stop, try, regret, go on, and quit are the verbs that most often trip people up. Master their meaning shifts first.
3. Create your own examples. After reading each entry, write one personal sentence. Active production locks the pattern into long-term memory.
4. Notice the errors you hear. Once you know the rules, you will start hearing (and correcting) the mistakes around you — a powerful reinforcement loop.
5. Use this as a desk reference. Keep the PDF open while writing emails or essays. Looking up a verb takes seconds and prevents fossilized errors.

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