

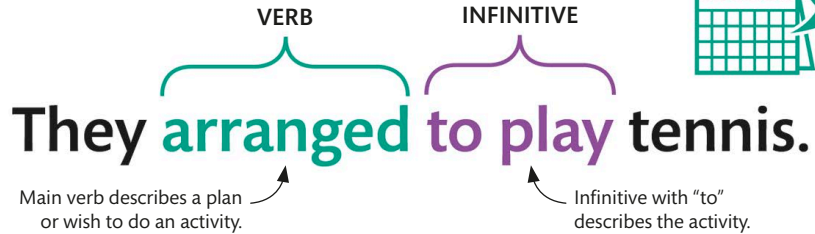
52 Verb patterns

Some verbs in English can only go with a gerund or an infinitive. Some verbs can go with either. These verbs often describe wishes, plans, or feelings.

See also:
Types of verbs 49
Infinitives and participles 51

52.1 VERBS WITH INFINITIVES

English uses the infinitive with "to" after certain verbs that describe someone's plans or wishes to do an activity.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

The infinitive doesn't change no matter what the tense of the main verb is.



I'm **waiting to play** badminton, but my friend is running late.

We **wanted to play** baseball yesterday, but it was raining.

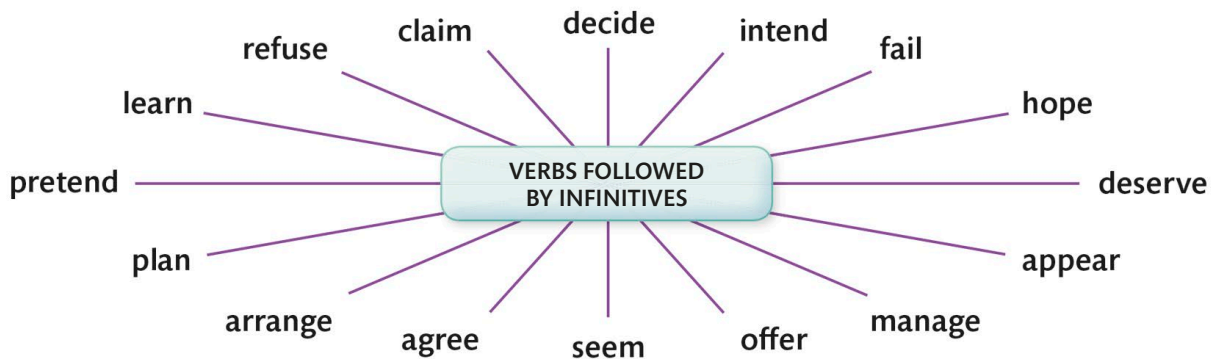


My car broke down, but my friend **offered to drive** me home.

Ron **decided to learn** how to play the trombone.

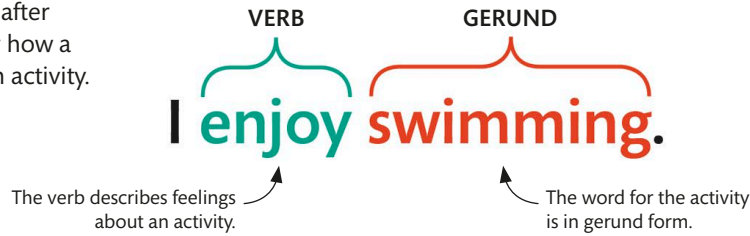


OTHER VERBS FOLLOWED BY INFINITIVES



52.2 VERBS WITH GERUNDS

English uses gerunds after certain verbs that say how a person feels about an activity.



FURTHER EXAMPLES



He doesn't **feel like playing** tennis tonight.



We really **dislike jogging**.
We're so out of shape!



Do you **miss skiing** now that summer is here?



I really **enjoy running** marathons.

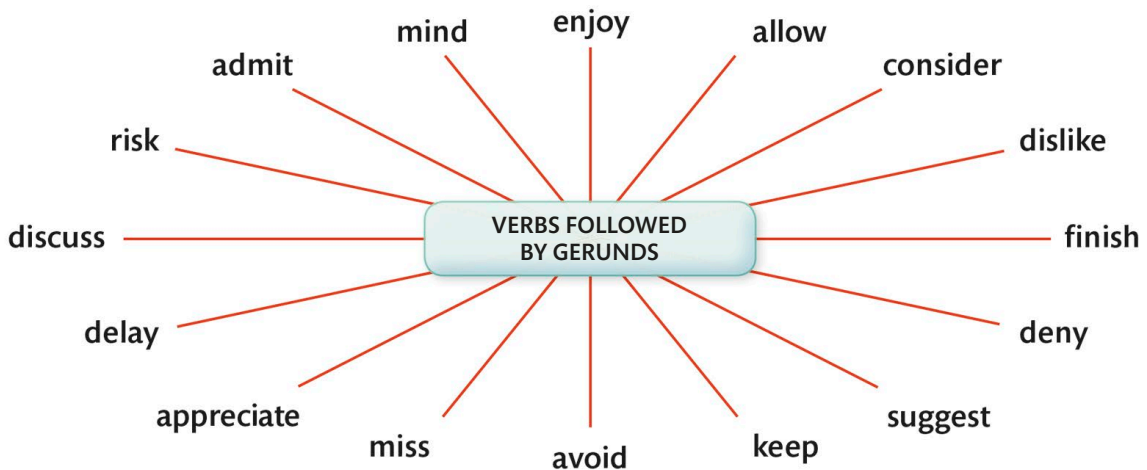


Would you **consider applying** for a promotion?



He doesn't **mind staying** late at work when he has to.

OTHER VERBS FOLLOWED BY GERUNDS



52.3 VERBS FOLLOWED BY INFINITIVE OR GERUND (NO CHANGE IN MEANING)

Some verbs can be followed by a gerund (an “-ing” form) or a “to” infinitive, with little or no change in meaning. You can often use both forms interchangeably.



I like { **to work** / **working** } in an open-plan office with a team.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Emails are really awkward. I prefer { **to meet** / **meeting** } in person.



After a short stop, they continued { **to drive** / **driving** } toward the campsite.



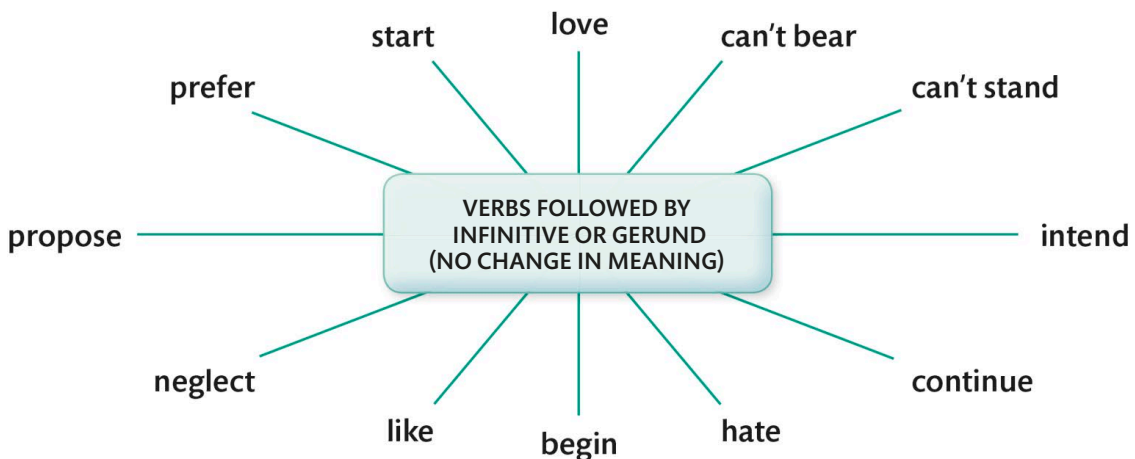
Once she had found a seat, she began { **to write** / **writing** } her essay.



Why isn't the bus here yet? I really can't stand { **to be** / **being** } late.



OTHER VERBS FOLLOWED BY INFINITIVE OR GERUND (NO CHANGE IN MEANING)



52.4 VERBS FOLLOWED BY INFINITIVE OR GERUND (CHANGE IN MEANING)

Some verbs change their meaning depending on the form of the verb that follows them. The infinitive is used to describe the purpose of the main verb's action. The gerund is often used to talk about the action which is happening around the same time as the main verb's action.



He **stopped to talk** to her in the office before lunch.

[He was walking around the office, and he stopped walking so that he could talk to her.]



She **stopped talking** to him and rushed to a meeting.

[She was talking to him, and she stopped talking in order to do something else.]

FURTHER EXAMPLES

VERB + INFINITIVE

She **forgot to send** the email, so her team never received the update.

[She did not send the email.]

He **went on to write** the report once the meeting had finished.

[He finished a meeting and then wrote the report.]

I **regret to tell** you the unhappy news. Your flight has been delayed.

[I have to tell you unhappy news, and I am sorry about this.]

Did you **remember to meet** David? Your meeting was scheduled for today.

[You were supposed to meet David. Did you remember to do that?]

VERB + GERUND

She **forgot sending** the email, so she sent it a second time.

[She forgot that she had already sent the email.]

He **went on writing** the report all evening. It took hours.

[He was writing the report, and continued to do so.]

I **regret telling** you the unhappy news. I can see it has upset you.

[I wish I hadn't told you the unhappy news because you are very upset now.]

Did you **remember meeting** David? I'd forgotten that we had already met him.

[You had met David before. Did you remember that?]