

## GERUNDS x INFINITIVES

### THE ING FORM

Look at the following examples:

1. You should avoid giving any unnecessary information.
2. The English course is really worth attending.
3. After shortlisting candidates, she invited them for an interview.

-ing forms are used

➤ **after certain verbs (1)**

*admit, appreciate, consider, delay, deny, discuss, face, imagine, involve, mention, mind, miss, postpone, practice, recommend, report, risk, suggest...*

➤ **after certain expressions (2)**

*no good, no use, no point, be waste of time, can't help/ bear /stand/ face/ help/resist, be worth...*

➤ **after the following time conjunctions (3)**

*before, after, when, while, on, since*

More examples:

- I *adore reading* your books.
- They *anticipated winning* the election.
- I *detest going* to discos.
- We *postponed making* any decision in the meeting.
- I *quit smoking*.
- Do you *recall seeing* someone like that?

### EXPRESSIONS WITH THE ING FORM

*It's no use apologising to Sheila. She's too stubborn.*

*It's no good talking to Pete. He's in a bad mood now.*

*I suggest going out tonight.*

*Nadia wants to give up smoking.*

*Leonard cannot imagine working on the project with Roger.*

*Ian spends his time reading books on politics.*

*Paula doesn't mind earning less money as long as she loves what she does.*

Sam is very *good at gardening*.

Helen *prefers writing to speaking French*.

## THE INFINITIVE

**Look at the following examples:**

1. Don't **hesitate to contact** me if you need any help.
2. Could you **remind me to post** this letter?
3. I can't decide **what to do** next.

**infinitive forms are used**

➤ **after certain verbs (1)**

*afford, arrange, fail, forget, guarantee, intend, prepare, pretend, promise, prove, tend, train, threaten, undertake, volunteer, wish...*

➤ **after the object of certain verbs (2)**

*advise, allow, ask, cause, enable, encourage, expect, forbid, invite, order, permit, persuade, recommend, remind, teach, tell, train, urge, want, warn...*

➤ **after certain verbs and a question word (3)**

*know/wonder what, discuss/explain how much, consider/find out when...*

More examples:

- I can't *afford to go* to the pub.
- He *agreed to practise* more.
- You should *learn to express* yourself.
- They *managed to fix* the problem.

**Verbs followed by both *-ing* or *to* infinitive forms**

➤ **with a difference in meaning (1)**

*forget, remember, regret, go on, mean, try, need*

➤ **with no or little difference in meaning (2)**

*attempt (to do something, an attempt at doing something), begin, continue, deserve, fear, hate, intend, like, love, prefer, start*

*I deserve to be promoted. X Several other points deserve mentioning.*

## REMEMBER + FORGET

### Ing form

*I remember playing* dodgeball when I was a small child. (referring to the past experiences)

*Dean will never forget kissing* Ruth for the first time. (referring to the past experiences)

### Infinitive

*Remember to/Don't forget to lock* door before you leave. (referring forward in time)

## REGRET

### Ing form

*Hank regrets lying* to her. He should not have done that. (referring back to the past mistakes)

*We regret to announce* that the train is delayed due to leaves on the train line.  
(announcing bad news)

## STOP

### Ing form

I have stopped smoking. (I have given up smoking)

### Infinitive

I stopped to smoke. (I stopped so that I could light a cigarette)

## MEAN

### Ing form

*If you want to apply for this job, it will mean sending* a CV. (it involves sending a CV)

### Infinitive

*I didn't mean to upset* you by my remark. (I didn't want to upset you)

## More examples and explanations (taken from the presentation):

1a. I **forgot to switch** off the computer.

1b. I **forgot switching** off the computer.

*1a. I wanted to switch off the computer, but I did not do it.*

*1b. I switched off the computer, but I did not remember that I had done it.*

2a. I'd just **started writing** a letter when the phone rang.

2b. I'd just **started to write** a letter when the phone rang.

*no difference in meaning*

1a. I **remembered to cancel** the appointment.

1b. I **remembered writing** down their address.

*1a. I remembered something this morning, and then I did it.*

*1b. I wrote their address down, and later I remembered that I had done.*

2a. I'm **trying to run** this computer program.

2b. I **have tried clicking** on the box, but it doesn't work.

*2a. I'm making an effort to run this computer program, which I find difficult.*

*2b. I have done an experiment to solve a problem.*

3a. We **regret to inform** you that you haven't been shortlisted.

3b. I **regret not applying** for the job.

*3a. We feel sorry about saying that you haven't been shortlisted.*

*3b. I wish I had applied for the job or I should have applied for the job.*

1a. I **mean to leave** the meeting with a new contract signed.

1b. My new job will **mean travelling** all over the world.

*1a. I intend to leave the meeting with a new contract.*

*1b. My new job will involve travelling all over the world.*

2a. He welcomed the members of the committee and **went on to introduce**  
Mr Parker.

2b. He **went on studying** law despite failing the first year exams.

*2a. After welcoming them, he introduced Mr Parker.*

*2b. He continued his studies of law despite difficulties.*