

Common Verbs Followed by Either Gerunds or Infinitives

Verbs that can be followed by a gerund or infinitive without a change in meaning

<u>Verb + to do / doing something</u> <i>Soon after the patients were given the new drug, their condition began to improve /improving.</i>	
attempt	<i>The speaker attempted to persuade / persuading the audience to support his ideas, without success.</i>
continue	<i>In spite of family planning efforts, the population of poor countries continues to rise / rising.</i>
intend	<i>The school intends to open / opening additional facilities in the coming year.</i>
like	<i>The study shows that not many employees like to take / taking work home.</i>
start	<i>The company has started to export / exporting skilled manpower overseas.</i>

Verbs that can be followed by a gerund or infinitive with a change in meaning

<u>Verb + to do / doing something</u> <i>Soon after the patients were given the new drug, their condition began to improve /improving.</i>	
go on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The presenter went on describing at length how the study was conducted.</i> The description continued for a long time; it went on and on. • <i>The presenter went on to describe how the study was conducted.</i> The presenter started with something else and then changed to describing how the study was done.
forget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alison said that she forgot mailing the application form.</i> She doesn't remember whether she mailed it or not. • <i>Alison said that she forgot to mail the application form.</i> She didn't mail it because she didn't remember.
remember	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I remember adding a reminder about our next meeting at the end of the letter.</i> I did add a reminder at the end of the letter. I recall doing so. • <i>I remembered to add a reminder about our next meeting at the end of the letter.</i> After I wrote the letter, I didn't forget to add the reminder at the end.
stop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>David stopped smoking.</i> He quit smoking. • <i>David stopped to smoke.</i> On his way somewhere or in the middle of something, he took a break to smoke.