

## Verbs change their meaning when they are followed by a *Gerund* or an *Infinitive*

Some verbs have different meanings when they are followed by a *gerund* or an *infinitive*.

### forget

GERUND	INFINITIVE
looks back in the past	looks into the future
He'll never <b>forget spending</b> so much money on his first computer.	Don't <b>forget to spend</b> money on the tickets.

### go on

GERUND	INFINITIVE
to continue with the same thing	to change the activity
<b>Go on reading</b> the text.	<b>Go on to read</b> the text.

## mean

GERUND	INFINITIVE
sth. has to be done to get a result	intend to do sth.
You have forgotten your homework again. That <b>means phoning</b> your mother.	I <b>meant to phone</b> your mother, but my mobile didn't work.

## regret

GERUND	INFINITIVE
you did sth in the past and you are not happy about it	to tell bad news and you are not happy about it
I <b>regret being</b> late for school.	We <b>regret to inform</b> you that the flight has been delayed for another two hours.

## remember

GERUND	INFINITIVE
looks back in the past	looks into the future
I <b>remember switching</b> off the lights when I went on holiday.	<b>Remember to switch</b> off the lights when you go on holiday.

## stop

GERUND	INFINITIVE
to stop with an activity	to stop in order to do sth.
I stopped <b>smoking</b> .	I stopped <b>to smoke</b> .

## try

GERUND	INFINITIVE
to test sth.	to do sth. that is not easy
I tried <b>taking</b> an aspirin but it didn't help.	<b>Try to be</b> quiet when you come home late.

The following words are a little more tricky.

## like

I **like reading** books. = I **like to read** books.

There is normally no difference in meaning.

- Use the Gerund when like is used in the sense of 'enjoy'.  
*Example: I like **riding** my bike.*
- Use the Infinitive when you do sth. in the sense of a habit.  
*Example: I **like to do** my homework in the afternoon. (I think, it is good to do my homework in the afternoon).*

Mind the following examples:

- I **like watching** films.
- I would **like to watch** the film.

## be afraid

Use the Gerund when you worry about sth.

- I'm **afraid** of **having** an accident.

In other cases there is no difference in meaning whether we use Gerund or Infinitive.

- I'm **afraid to go** by bike on this road. = I'm **afraid of going** by bike on this road.

## need

If we use a Gerund after need, then the sentence has a passive meaning:

- The window **needs cleaning**.

## used to

The form **to be used to + Gerund** means that the person is familiar with sth.

- He **is used to smoking**. (*He still smokes.*)

The form **used to + Infinitive** means that the person did sth. in the past.

- He **used to smoke**. (*He does not smoke any more.*)

Attention!

- He ~~**is used to smoke**~~. (*This sentence is wrong.*)