Gerund or infinitive

Grammatik · Englisch · Klasse 9 bis 12

Patterns

Pattern	Words	Example
verb + gerund	enjoy, avoid, finish, mind, suggest, keep, practise, imagine, risk, consider, admit, deny, miss, give up, can’t stand	She enjoys reading.
preposition + gerund	interested in, good at, afraid of, tired of, look forward to, be used to, instead of, without, before, after	I’m looking forward to seeing you.
verb + to-infinitive	want, decide, hope, plan, promise, refuse, agree, offer, manage, learn, afford, seem, expect, would like	He decided to leave.
verb + object + to-infinitive	ask, tell, want, allow, advise, expect, encourage, force	She asked me to help.
verb + object + infinitive without to	make, let, help (also with to)	They made him wait.
adjective + to-infinitive	easy, difficult, happy, sorry, surprised, glad	It is easy to learn.
gerund as subject	-	Swimming is good for you.

Both forms, different meaning

Verb	+ gerund	+ to-infinitive
remember	I remember locking the door. (memory)	Remember to lock the door. (don’t forget)
forget	I’ll never forget meeting her.	Don’t forget to call.
stop	He stopped smoking. (gave it up)	He stopped to smoke. (in order to)
try	Try pressing the button. (experiment)	I tried to open it. (make an effort)
regret	I regret saying that.	We regret to inform you …
go on	She went on talking. (continued)	She went on to talk about … (next topic)
mean	It means working late. (involves)	I meant to call you. (intended)

Watch out

- like, love, hate, prefer, begin, start, continue take both forms with little difference. After would like, would love, would prefer: to-infinitive.
- When to is a preposition, a gerund follows: look forward to, be used to, object to, when it comes to.
- used to + infinitive = früher: I used to play football. be used to + gerund = gewohnt sein: I am used to getting up early.