**-ing (gerund) and the infinitive**

**EI20A**

**fcfm**

- There are some verbs in English which are followed by –ing and some others which are followed by the infinitive.

- You will also find some verbs which can take both forms and express the same idea.

- There are others which take both forms but when followed by the –ing form have got one meaning and when followed by the infinitive they mean something different.

**1. Verbs + -ing**

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| finish – delay – fancy – consider – admit – miss – involve – postpone (put off) – avoid – deny – risk – practise – give up – **carry** on – keep (keep on) – suggest – enjoy – mind – dislike – **recommend** – mind – **advise – encourage – permit - forbid**. |

Examples:

1a. Do you fancy going out this evening?

1b. I haven’t given up smoking.

1c. She delayed telling him the news, waiting for the right moment.

1d. I wouldn’t recommend staying in that hotel. (look at the notes below)

1e. We can’t carry on living like this!

**2. Verbs + the infinitive**

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| decide – offer – agree – refuse – plan – arrange – hope – aim – learn – deserve – afford – attempt – manage – fail – promise – threaten – choose – seem – appear – tend – pretend – claim - need – help – hope – want – would like/love – expect. |

Examples:

2a. I agreed *not* to lend him some money.

2b. They seem to have plenty of money.

2c. The government is aiming to reduce unemployment by 50%.

2d. I would like to go to that concert.

2e. The hijackers threatened to kill the passengers.

**3. Verbs + -ing or the infinitive** **(having the same meaning)**

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| begin – start – intend – continue – bother – like – love – hate – can’t stand – bear – prefer - allow |

Examples:

3a. How can you bear eating that stuff? / How can you bear to eat that stuff?

3b. I like getting up early / I like to get up early.

3c. The donor prefers remaining anonymous / The donor prefers to remain anonymous.

3d. It began raining / It began to rain.

3e. I don’t intend staying long / I don’t intend to stay long.

**4. Verbs + -ing or the infinitive (with differences in meaning).**

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| --- | --- |
| *Stop*  - I stopped smoking a year ago. (I don’t smoke any more) | - I was driving and I stopped to smoke. ( I had to stop what I was doing to do something different) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *regret*  *-* I now regret saying what I said. ( I did it and now I’m sorry about it) (The action - saying- happened BEFORE the act of regretting). | - I regret to inform you that we are unable to offer you the job. ( I’m sorry about what I’m going to do) ( The action –inform- happened AFTER the act of regretting). |
| *remember*  - I remember locking the door. ( I locked it, and now I remember this) ( The action – locking the door- happened BEFORE the act of remembering). | - I remembered to lock the door when I left. ( I remembered to lock the door and I did it. It is not something I am remembering now) ( The action –locking the door- happened AFTER the act of remembering).  - Remember to tell him about Tina. (please, don’t forget – near future-) |
| *go on*  - The minister went on talking for two hours. ( continue). | After discussing the economy, the minister went on to talk about foreign policy. ( to do or say something new). |
| *forget*  - I can’t forget travelling with you. ( The action - travelling- happened BEFORE the act of forgetting). | - I forgot to buy the tickets. ( The action – buying the tickets- happened AFTER the act of forgetting) |
| *Come*  - She came home running ( The way she came home was running, not walking or cycling, etc.) | - She came home to run ( the purpose of her visit was to go running) |

**Notes:**

1. When the verbs are followed by an **object** (i.e. somebody or something) they take the infinitive form.

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| want- expect – ask – beg – help- mean (= intend) – would like/prefer/love/hate – **recommend** **- advise – encourage – allow – permit – forbid- carry.** |

Examples:

- Do you want **me** to buy the tickets? (**me**= object, it is somebody)

- We expected **Tom** to be late. ( **Tom**= object, it is somebody)

- They begged **permission** to leave. ( **permission**= object, it is something).

- I wouldn’t recommend **you** to stay in that hotel.

2 . “MAKE” and “LET” are different. They are followed by an **object** and the verb without “TO”.

Examples:

- He makes **Sally** feel happy.

- Let **him** go to the party.

3. When the verbs are followed by **a preposition** + verb, that verb ends in –ing. That is called “*gerund as object of preposition”.*

Examples:

- We talked **about** going to Europe.

- I succeeded **in** finding a new job.

- I’m thinking **of** buying a new house.

- They insisted **on** paying for the meal.

- She apologized **for** not telling the truth.

- Her parents prevented them **from** going there.

4. Expressions followed by a **gerund** after the preposition **to**:

Examples:

- She**’s accustomed to** sleeping late on Saturdays.

- We **are committed to** taking care of them.

- Kate **is looking forward to** visiting him again.

- I **am absolutely opposed to** trying that strange food.

- Tom **is used to** travelling abroad.

**Grammar Notes:**

- Subject:

The SU in a sentence is the person or thing that does the action expressed by the verb (usually a noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun). Sometimes the SU is a *gerund.*

Examples:

1. **They** went to the party last night.

**SU**

2. **The car** crashed into that big tree.

**SU**

3. **Meeting new people** is really exiting.

**SU**

- Direct Object:

The DO is the **person or thing** that receives the action of the verb (usually noun, pronouns, phrases or clauses). Sometimes the DO is a *gerund*.

Examples:

1. I asked him **an important question**.

**DO**

2. I think **travelling** is a great opportunity to know about different cultures.

**DO**

- Indirect Object:

The IO precedes the DO and tells to whom or for whom the action of the verb is done and who is receiving the DO (usually a noun or a pronoun). There must be a DO to have an IO. Sometimes an IO is a *gerund.*

Examples:

1. She brought **me** the report.

**IO** DO

2. Paul gave **running** a good reputation.

**IO** DO

- Subject Complement:

A SC is a complement that gives a description of the subject (usually nouns or adjectives after verb TO BE). Sometimes the SC is a *gerund.*

Examples:

1. Charles is a **doctor**.

**SC**

2. Charles is **upset**.

**SC**

3. My cat’s favourite activity is **sleeping**.

**SC**