

Infinitive Examples

Infinitives can be used as:

1. an object following the verb:

Jim always forgets **to eat**

2. a subject at the beginning of a sentence:

To travel around the world requires a lot of time and money.

3. an adverb modifying a verb:

You promised **to buy** me a diamond ring.

4. an adjective modifying a noun:

Tara has the ability **to succeed**.

5. Some verbs are directly followed by an infinitive:

Do you want **to call** your family now?

6. Some verbs are directly followed by a noun or pronoun and then by an infinitive:

I convinced Catherine **to become** vegetarian.

He advised me **to sell** all my shares of stock.

7. Some verbs can be followed by an infinitive or a gerund without causing a change in meaning:

Will you continue **working** after you give birth?

Will you continue **to work** after you give birth?

8. Some verbs can be followed by an infinitive or a gerund but with a change in meaning:

He stopped **drinking** coffee. (He never drank coffee again.)

He stopped **to drink** coffee. (He stopped what he was doing and drank some coffee.)



Choose the correct gerund or infinitive from the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. See the example.

1. She likes to get up early in the morning. (likes / dislikes)

2. Alan can't stand to ride on trains. (riding / to ride)

3. Mr. Harris enjoys inviting people out to dinner. (inviting / to invite)

4. In the old days, gentlemen challenged their rivals to fight. (fighting / to fight)

5. As the famous saying goes, there's no use crying over spilt milk. (crying / to cry)

6. Jim stopped to tie his shoelace. Wait for him. (tying / to tie)

My wife always volunteers to bake
 I can't waste my time complaining
 I'm always having trouble concentrating
 Please allow me to join
 You won't forget to pick up

bakes PTA meetings. (baking / to bake)
 about your salary. (complaining/ to complain)
 on the exam. (concentrating / to concentrate)
 your Facebook page. (Joining / to join)
 on your way home, will you? (picking up /to pick up)

Complete the following passage with either the gerund or the infinitive form of the verbs in brackets.



Dennis was in his first year at university, studying History. He was rather a lazy student and he tended to avoid (1) working (work) whenever he could. In the middle of the term, his history professor gave out an assignment to be handed in within two weeks. The assignment was quite a difficult one, so his professor advised them (2) starting (start) earlier. Dennis intended (3) to do (do) the assignment, but he postponed (4) writing (write) it for a week. He had a bad habit of (5) delaying (delay) things. The following week, he forgot (6) doing (do) it totally.

to start

The night before the assignment was due, he suddenly remembered it and rushed to the library to find the books he needed. He tried (7) reading (read) as much as possible on the topic, but there wasn't enough time. Dennis considered (8) asking (ask) for more time to do his paper, but his History professor was known to be very tough on students, so he finally decided (9) to cheat (cheat) and copy his paper from somewhere else. He found an old article on the same topic and quickly typed it out. The next day, he submitted the paper.



The following week, he was alarmed (10) to see (see) his professor approaching him, looking angry. "Is this your own work, or did you copy it?" asked the professor. Dennis denied (11) copying (copy) the paper. The professor was angry with Dennis for not (12) telling (tell) the truth. "If you expect me (13) to believe (believe) that, you must be very stupid," said the professor. "Every word is taken from an article I wrote myself five years ago. Did you really think I would forget (14) to write (write) it?" Dennis couldn't help (15) feeling (feel) sorry for telling such a lie.

Correct the wrong sentences.

1. Peter enjoys playing tennis. Peter enjoys playing tennis
 2. Sam forgot to send the e-mail. Sam forgot to send the e-mail
 3. Alice spent three hours to look for a shirt. Alice spent three hours looking a shirt
 4. Would you like to come swimming? would you like to come to swim
 5. She apologized for to be late. she apologized for be late
 6. He helped her doing her homework. He helped doing her homework

Adverbs

Adjectives

Keep on

picture

resent

enjoy

shirk

finish

urge

delay

permit

feign

Infinite

Ask

Say

desert

consent

hurry

tend

seek

profess

yearn

want

Begin
Can't bear
Can't stand
Continue
hate

Like
Love
prefer
propose
start

Forget

I forgot to meet him
(I didn't meet him because I forgot to do it)

I forgot to meeting him
(I don't have the memory of meeting him before)

go on

He went on to learn English and French
(he ended one period of time before this)

He went on learning English and French
(he continued learning the languages)

Quit

She quit to work here
(she quit her job here. she in order to work here)

She quit working here
(she quit her job here. she doesn't work here any more)

Regret

I regret promising to help you
(I'm sorry that I made the promise)

I regret to tell you that we can't hire you
(I'm telling you now, and I'm sorry)

Remember

She remembered visiting her grandmother
(she didn't forget to visit)

She remembered visiting her grandmother
(she had memories of this time)

Stop

I stopped to call you
(I interrupted another action in order to call you)

I stopped calling you
(I stopped this activity. Maybe we had a fight)