

GERUND OR INFINITIVE?

1 CONTINUE, START, BEGIN

Either the gerund or the infinitive can be used. The infinitive is more common.

It **started to snow**

It **started snowing**

2 LOVE, LIKE, PREFER, HATE

The meaning changes slightly, depending on whether the gerund or the infinitive is used.

Followed by the gerund, the statement is general:

I **like swimming**

I **love going** to parties

I **hate not being able to sleep** before an examination paper

Followed by the infinitive, the statement is more specific:

I **like to read** a book before going to sleep at night

I **hate to tell** you, but I've fucked up your ghetto-blaster

I **d like to have** a cuppa (cup of something)

3 REMEMBER, FORGET, STOP, TRY

The meaning changes greatly depending on whether the gerund or the infinitive is used:

I **remember being** very unhappy as a teenager (I now that I was very unhappy as a teenager)

I'll never **forget meeting** you (The day I met you is very clear in my memory)

If we use the gerund, that gerund refers to actions and states in the past, i.e. "before" the remembering, forgetting, etc. take place.

Remember to phone Susan! (It is important that you phone Susan, you shouldn't forget)

Don't forget to post the letter (The letter is important, so you must remind yourself to post it)

The infinitive refers to actions that must still be done, i.e. that happen after the remembering, forgetting, etc.

Try + infinitive is your goal; it is what you want to do

Try + gerund is the method you use to achieve that goal