

# Verbs Followed by a Gerund or an Infinitive

Sentences always contain at least one verb.

Sometimes there is more than one verb in a sentence; take for example those cases where we can observe the principal verb (the one in which the tense is often expressed) immediately followed by another secondary verb.

This “secondary” verb may come in **gerund** (ending in *-ing*) or **infinitive** (preceded by *to*) form.

Here are some verbs that you must use followed by **a gerund**. Notice in the examples how the verb that follows is used in *-ing* form.

| Verb          | Example:  |
|---------------|---|
| • like        | <i>We like listening to Jazz music.</i>                     |
| • love        | <i>He loves eating pizza.</i>                               |
| • enjoy       | <i>My brothers enjoy playing baseball.</i>                  |
| • dislike     | <i>Dad dislikes working on Sundays.</i>                     |
| • hate        | <i>A lot of people hate getting up early.</i>               |
| • don't mind  | <i>I don't mind walking to school.</i>                      |
| • can't stand | <i>Jerry can't stand doing the dishes.</i>                  |
| • admit       | <i>She admitted cheating during the test.</i>               |
| • keep        | <i>I will keep working on this project next year.</i>       |
| • stop        | <i>Adam stopped smoking last month.</i>                     |
| • avoid       | <i>I avoid using the elevator.</i>                          |
| • consider    | <i>He considers taking some Italian classes.</i>            |
| • finish      | <i>They finished painting the room late in the evening.</i> |

Here are some verbs that you must use followed by **an infinitive**.

Notice in the examples how the verb that follows is used with *to*.

- want *She wants to study medicine.*

# Verbs Followed by a Gerund or an Infinitive

- hope *I hope **to** visit you someday.*
- need *I really need **to** buy new glasses.*
- aim *The investigation aims **to** clear out many doubts.*
- promise *He promised **to** help me with my homework.*
- plan *Albert plans **to** get married after college.*
- decide *I decided **to** start my own business.*
- deserve *We all deserve **to** have some vacation.*
- expect *She expected **to** get better grades this year.*
- offer *He offered **to** drive me home.*
- have *She has **to** be on time everyday.*
- can afford *Alice cannot afford **to** pay college anymore.*
- pretend *I pretended **to** talk to him but he did not want to.*
- refuse *He refused **to** take the medicine.*
- seem *The course seems **to** have a huge impact in our skills development.*
- learn *He will learn **to** drive soon.*

These verb patterns are unmovable except when we use the verbs *like, love, enjoy, dislike* and *hate*.

These verbs can be used followed either by a gerund or and infinitive.

For example:

*We like **playing** chess. / We like **to** play chess.*

*He loved **visiting** his grandma. / He loved **to** visit his grandma.*

*She hates **cooking**. / She hates **to** cook.*