

# Remember, stop, try: gerund or infinitive

CEFR B1 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

With these six verbs, the -ing form looks at the action itself, and to plus the verb looks at the purpose or the task still to do.

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## The rule

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### Remember: memory or task

- Remember plus gerund looks back at a memory: "I remember locking the door."
- Remember plus to plus verb looks forward to a task: "Remember to lock the door."
- The gerund remembers an action already done; the infinitive reminds you to do it.
- Compare: "I remember meeting her" is a memory, and "I remembered to meet her" is a completed task.

### Stop: end or pause

- Stop plus gerund ends the activity: "He stopped smoking last year."
- Stop plus to plus verb pauses one action in order to do another: "He stopped to smoke."
- The gerund is the thing that stops; the infinitive is the purpose of the pause.
- Read the sentence: the purpose reading usually needs a journey, work or movement to pause.

### Try: experiment or effort

- Try plus gerund means test a method: "Try restarting the phone."
- Try plus to plus verb means make an effort, often with difficulty: "I tried to lift the box, but it was too heavy."
- The gerund asks what happens if we do it. The infinitive asks whether we are able to do it.
- In speech, "try and" often replaces "try to": "Try and finish it tonight."

### Forget: the same shape as remember

- Forget plus gerund means not have a memory of doing something: "I will never forget visiting Rome."
- Forget plus to plus verb means fail to do a task: "I forgot to call the dentist."
- The gerund is the memory; the infinitive is the missed duty.
- In the negative, "I will not forget to call" promises the task will happen.

### Regret and go on

- Regret plus gerund looks back with sadness: "I regret leaving the job."
- Regret plus to plus verb gives bad news now: "I regret to tell you that the flight is cancelled."
- Go on plus gerund means continue the same activity: "She went on talking."
- Go on plus to plus verb means move to the next activity: "She went on to talk about the budget."

## Questions

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Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. I remember \_\_\_ the door before we left. It was definitely locked.

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2. Please remember \_\_\_ the door when you leave.

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3. He stopped \_\_\_ five years ago and feels much healthier.

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4. On the long drive, we stopped \_\_\_ at a service station.

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5. If the screen freezes, try \_\_\_ the phone.

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6. I tried \_\_\_ the box, but it was far too heavy.

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7. I will never forget \_\_\_ Rome for the first time.

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8. I forgot \_\_\_ the dentist, so I need to book a new appointment.

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9. I regret \_\_\_ the job; it was a mistake.

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10. I regret \_\_\_ you that your flight has been cancelled.

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11. She went on \_\_\_ for another hour without changing the subject.

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12. After the introduction, she went on \_\_\_ about the budget.

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13. I clearly remember \_\_\_ my keys on the kitchen table.

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14. Remember \_\_\_ your passport before the trip.

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15. The doctor told him to stop \_\_\_ so much coffee.

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16. We stopped \_\_\_ the view from the top of the hill.

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17. Try \_\_\_ the app; the update may fix the problem.

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18. She tried \_\_\_ the door, but she had the wrong key.

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19. He forgot \_\_\_ his mother, and she was worried.

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20. I regret \_\_\_ so much time on that project.

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## Answer key

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1. **locking** — A memory of a past action takes the gerund locking after remember.
2. **to lock** — A task still to do takes the infinitive to lock after remember.
3. **smoking** — Ending the habit takes the gerund smoking; stop to smoke would mean pause in order to smoke.
4. **to smoke** — The pause in order to smoke takes the infinitive of purpose, to smoke.
5. **restarting** — An experiment with a method takes the gerund restarting after try.
6. **to lift** — An effort, especially a difficult one, takes the infinitive to lift after try.
7. **visiting** — A memory of the past takes the gerund visiting after forget.
8. **to call** — A missed task takes the infinitive to call after forget.
9. **leaving** — Looking back with sadness at a past action takes the gerund leaving after regret.
10. **to inform** — Giving bad news now takes the infinitive to inform after regret.
11. **talking** — Continuing the same activity takes the gerund talking after go on.
12. **to talk** — Moving to the next activity takes the infinitive to talk after go on.
13. **leaving** — A clear memory of a past action takes the gerund leaving.
14. **to pack** — A task not yet done takes the infinitive to pack after remember.
15. **drinking** — Stopping the activity takes the gerund drinking after stop.
16. **to admire** — A pause for a purpose takes the infinitive to admire after stop.
17. **reinstalling** — Testing a possible solution takes the gerund reinstalling after try.
18. **to open** — An effort with an obstacle takes the infinitive to open after try.
19. **to call** — A missed duty takes the infinitive to call after forget.
20. **spending** — A past action viewed with regret takes the gerund spending after regret.