

## Gerund or Infinitive as object of the verb?

Gerunds and infinitives can both be used as subjects, subject complements, and direct objects of verbs. The choice of whether to use a gerund or infinitive as a subject, subject complement, or object of some verbs is left to the speaker/writer, for example with verbs such as **start** or **begin**, which may be followed by either a gerund or a to-infinitive with no difference in meaning.

However, the choice between which to use as a **direct object** is sometimes dictated by the verb, leaving no choice. Which verbs can be followed by gerunds, which by infinitives, (and which by either) **must be memorized**.

Here you can see a list of the most frequent verbs and the structure that may follow them.

### VERBS THAT CAN HAVE INFINITIVE OR GERUND OBJECTS, with little or no difference in meaning:

\_\_\_\_\_ *travelling*.  
\_\_\_\_\_ *to travel*.

can afford can't bear begin	cease commence continue	dread hate like	loathe love neglect	prefer propose (can't) stand	start undertake
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### VERBS THAT CAN HAVE GERUND OBJECTS, BUT NOT INFINITIVES: (usually actual events, often past)

\_\_\_\_\_ *(his) travelling*.

admit anticipate appreciate avoid complete consider defend delay	deny detest discuss dislike enjoy escape excuse his finish	get through give up go on can't help imagine involve keep (on)	mention (not) mind miss postpone practice put off quit recall	recollect recommend report resent resist resume risk (can't) see	stop suggest take up tolerate understand
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### VERBS THAT CAN HAVE INFINITIVE OBJECTS, BUT NOT GERUNDS: (often suggesting a potential or unreal event)

\_\_\_\_\_ *to travel*.

him = infinitive must have a subject (agent)

for him = infinitive must have a subject introduced by *for*

(him) or (for him) = subject (agent) of infinitive is optional

(none of the above = verb is followed directly by the infinitive)

agree aim appear appoint him arrange (for him) authorize him ask (him) beg (him) (not) care	command him condescend consent convince him decide demand deserve desire direct him	fail force him get (him) happen hesitate hire him help him hope instruct him	long manage motivate him need (him) oblige him offer order him pay him persuade him	promise refuse remind him resolve seem select him send him strive struggle	train him trust him volunteer vow wait (for him) want (him) warn him wish (him) yearn
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cause him challenge him choose (him) claim	enable him expect (him)	intend invite him lead him learn	plan prepare (him) pretend proceed	swear tell him tend threaten	
VERBS THAT CAN HAVE INFINITIVE OR GERUND OBJECTS, but with a difference in meaning:					
		_____ <i>travelling.</i> actual: first it happens; then there is mental activity	_____ <i>to travel.</i> potential: first there is mental activity about a possible future event		
attempt forget mean regret remember try		- do it, hoping for success - do it, then have a mental lapse - it exists, it has a significance - do it, then feel bad - do it, then be aware of it - do it, hoping for success	- make an effort, hoping to do it - have a mental lapse, and therefore <u>not</u> do it - have an intention to do it - feel bad, but then do it - think about it, and then do it - make an effort, hoping to do it		
VERBS THAT CAN HAVE INFINITIVE OBJECTS WITH AGENTS, OR GERUNDS :					
_____ <i>travelling.</i> _____ <i>him to travel.</i>					
advise allow	encourage forbid	permit	require	teach	urge