

GERUNDS & INFINITIVES: MEANING

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Distinguish verb patterns that change the meaning of an action.

1. READ: Checking before a trip

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Nell: Did you **remember to lock** the back door?

Gabe: Yes. I **remember locking** it just before we left.

Nell: Good. Can we stop at the next services?

Gabe: Sure. We can **stop to get** coffee.

Nell: I've **stopped drinking** coffee after lunch, but I'd like some tea.

Gabe: Tea it is. And let's take a proper break instead of rushing.

2. GRAMMAR: The pattern changes the meaning

With stop, remember, forget and try, -ing and to-infinitive often express different meanings.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Stop	stop -ing / stop to do	quit an activity / pause for another
Remember	remember -ing / remember to do	recall an event / remember a duty
Try	try -ing / try to do	test a method / attempt a task

Forget: I forgot to call. (didn't call) / I'll never forget meeting her. (memory)

Try: Try restarting it. (test a solution) / I tried to lift it. (attempt)

Use the whole context; both patterns may be grammatical but mean different things.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. I stopped smoking / to smoke; I no longer smoke.
2. We stopped buying / to buy water before continuing.
3. Remember posting / to post it tomorrow.
4. I remember meeting / to meet her last year.
5. Try restarting / to restart it as a possible solution.
6. He tried lifting / to lift it, but it was too heavy.
7. I forgot locking / to lock it, so it was left open.
8. I'll never forget seeing / to see the sea for the first time.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Before and during a journey

Choose the -ing form or to-infinitive that best matches the stated meaning.

1. Remember _____ (check) the doors before you leave tomorrow.
2. I remember _____ (lock) the back door this morning.
3. We stopped _____ (get) tea, then continued the journey.
4. I've stopped _____ (drink) coffee after lunch.
5. Try _____ (restart) the app as a possible fix.
6. I tried _____ (open) the jar, but the lid was too tight.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Rewrite to preserve the meaning.

Example: I no longer smoke. (stop) **I've stopped smoking.**

1. I no longer eat meat. (stop) _____
2. We paused so we could rest. (stop) _____

3-4: Rewrite to preserve the meaning. Example: I didn't call because I forgot. **I forgot to call.**

3. I recall meeting Jo. (remember) _____
4. I didn't call because I forgot. (forget) _____

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three examples: a memory, a duty and a change. Make each meaning clear.

Example: **I remember meeting Jo. I must remember to call her. I've stopped eating late.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Give your partner two sentences with the same verb but different patterns.

Explain the difference, then suggest a problem-solving method with **Try + -ing**.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: Checking before a trip

Sample target language from the conversation:

Nell: Did you **remember to lock** the back door?

Gabe: Yes. I **remember locking** it just before we left.

Gabe: Sure. We can **stop to get** coffee.

Nell: I've **stopped drinking** coffee after lunch, but I'd like some tea.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. smoking | 2. to buy |
| 3. to post | 4. meeting |
| 5. restarting | 6. to lift (attempt; lifting can describe a trial) |
| 7. to lock | 8. seeing |

B. COMPLETE: Before and during a journey

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. to check | 2. locking |
| 3. to get | 4. drinking |
| 5. restarting | 6. to open (opening also possible with a trial-method emphasis) |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. I've stopped eating meat.
2. We stopped to rest.
3. I remember meeting Jo.
4. I forgot to call.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: I stopped to rest on the way home. I've stopped buying bottled water. I remember visiting that town.

Teacher note: Avoid treating try -ing/to as absolutely exclusive. Both can describe a trial, but the infinitive commonly highlights an attempt and -ing a proposed method.