

English Grammar: Second Verb

If a sentence in English contains two verbs, then the first verb is conjugated normally, but the **second verb** has three possible forms, depending on the first verb.

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|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) full infinitive
(Ex. to go) | 2) bare infinitive
(Ex. go) | 3) gerund
(Ex. going) |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Examples:

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|---|-------------------|
| 1) I <u>decided</u> to learn French. | (full infinitive) |
| 2) We <u>can</u> go now. | (bare infinitive) |
| 3) He <u>enjoys</u> playing football. | (gerund) |
| 4) I <u>want</u> to give him a present for his birthday. | (full infinitive) |
| 5) I <u>promise</u> to call you next Saturday. | (full infinitive) |
| 6) She <u>regrets</u> going to the cinema with Fred. | (gerund) |
| 7) We <u>should</u> study more. | (bare infinitive) |
| 8) It <u>is</u> good to learn English. | (full infinitive) |

These verbs demand a full infinitive	These verbs demand a bare infinitive	These verbs demand a gerund
agree appear ask be claim decide expect force forget have help intend know how learn manage offer promise refuse seem tend want wish	<u>Modal verbs:</u> can could may might must shall should would <u>Causative verbs:</u> let make	admit advise avoid consider deny dislike enjoy finish imagine keep mind miss postpone practise recommend regret risk stop suggest

Regional differences. Sometimes, there are regional differences. For example:

- I like **to eat** in restaurants. (more common in the USA)
- I like **eating** in restaurants. (more common in the UK)
- I prefer **to speak** in English. (more common in the USA)
- I prefer **speaking** in English. (more common in the UK)

These verbs have regional differences: **like, adore, hate, love, begin, start, continue, prefer, try**

Different meanings

Some verbs deliver different meanings with a gerund or an infinitive after them. For example:

- He stopped **to smoke**. (He stopped an activity because he wanted to smoke.)
- He stopped **smoking**. (He decided never to have another cigarette.)
- I remember **playing** football in the street when I was a kid. (This is a memory.)
- I remembered **to lock** the door. (It happened recently.)
- I will never forget **watching** my first horror movie. (This is a memory.)
- I forgot **to lock** the door. (It happened recently.)
- I regret **eating** so much. (This is a memory.)
- I regret **to tell** you that your flight is cancelled. (This is bad news.)

First verb conjugation. Here are some examples using different tenses for the verb “practise”.

Present Simple:	Peter <u>practises</u> speaking English every day.
Present Continuous:	Peter <u>is practising</u> speaking English at the moment.
Past Simple:	Peter <u>practised</u> speaking English yesterday.
Past Continuous:	Peter <u>was practising</u> speaking English when I arrived.
Future Simple:	Peter <u>will practise</u> speaking English tomorrow.
Present Perfect Simple:	Peter <u>has practised</u> speaking English many times.
Present Perfect Continuous:	Peter <u>has been practising</u> speaking English since he arrived.
Past Perfect:	Peter <u>had practised</u> speaking English before he went to the UK.

When do I use the infinitive? When do I use the gerund?

Unfortunately there are no easy rules to help us! You have to know and practise!

Recommended video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDc2BUV9xis> (15 mins)

Note:

Approximately 70% of all English verbs demand a full infinitive and about 25% demand a gerund. So, if you don't know what a verb demands, use a full infinitive, and, statistically, you will be correct most of the time.

Exercise. Complete the sentences below using the given verbs. Pay attention to the first verb.

1. I really must _____ (pay) the electric bill today.
2. After eight hours of climbing, we managed _____ (get) to the top of the mountain.
3. You shouldn't risk _____ (take) cash. It is much safer _____ (take) a credit card.
4. The two men admitted _____ (rob) the bank.
5. After a lot of negotiation, he agreed _____ (sell) me his car for \$500.
6. We had to postpone _____ (go) to Italy because John's boss asked him _____ (take) his vacation in August instead of June.
7. Can you please tell me when you finish _____ (use) the phone? I want _____ (make) a call.
8. I can't _____ (hear) you very well. Can you _____ (hear) me?
9. Do you like _____ (travel) alone?
10. He always prefers _____ (study) in his bedroom.
11. Did you remember _____ (pay) the electricity bill?
12. When he turned 90, he decided _____ (stop) _____ (drive).
13. Yesterday she seemed _____ (be) sad.
14. Let's stop _____ (take) a break. I'm very tired.
15. Please stop _____ (talk). I'm trying to concentrate here!
16. He started _____ (smoke) when he was a teenager.
17. He promised _____ (buy) a new car for his wife.
18. The dog refused _____ (get) in the car.
19. We should _____ (call) for a taxi right now.
20. I might _____ (go) to the beach on Sunday.