

# COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE INFINITIVE OR THE -ING FORM OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS.1. I Have Stopped

## Introduction

The English language offers a fascinating array of verb forms that can sometimes pose challenges for learners. Among these, the choice between the infinitive form (to + verb) and the -ing form (verb + -ing) is particularly important, as it can alter the meaning of a sentence or determine grammatical correctness. In this article, we will explore the rules, usage, and nuances of completing sentences with the infinitive or the -ing form of verbs, using the prompt: **COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE INFINITIVE OR THE -ING FORM OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS.1. I Have Stopped**. Through detailed explanations and examples, readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of this aspect of English grammar.

## Understanding the Basic Concepts

### What Is the Infinitive?

The infinitive form of a verb is the base form preceded by "to" (e.g., to run, to eat, to read). It is often used to express purpose, intention, or a future action. For example:

- I want to learn English.
- She decided to go to the market.
- They hope to visit Paris next year.

### What Is the -ing Form?

The -ing form, also known as the gerund or present participle, is the base verb plus "-ing" (e.g., running, eating, reading). It can function as a noun or be part of continuous verb tenses. Examples include:

- Running is good exercise.
- I enjoy reading books.

- She is studying for her exams.

## **Key Rules for Choosing Between Infinitive and -ing Forms**

### **Verbs Followed by the Infinitive**

Certain verbs are typically followed by the infinitive form. These include:

- Want
- Decide
- Hope
- Plan
- Promise
- Would like

### **Verbs Followed by the -ing Form**

Other verbs are generally followed by the -ing form:

- Enjoy
- Finish
- Suggest
- Mind
- Stop
- Keep
- Admit

# Verbs That Can Take Both Forms with Different Meanings

Some verbs can be followed by either the infinitive or the -ing form, but with different meanings:

1.

## **Stop:**

- Stop to do something (infinitive): I stopped to talk to her. (I paused my current activity to talk.)
- Stop doing something (-ing): I stopped smoking. (I quit smoking.)

2.

## **Remember:**

- Remember to do something (infinitive): Remember to lock the door. (A future action.)
- Remember doing something (-ing): I remember meeting her last year. (A past memory.)

## Common Examples and Explanations

### Using "Stop" in Different Contexts

The verb "stop" is a classic example of how the choice between the infinitive and the -ing form can change the sentence's meaning:

- **Stop to do something** (Infinitive): This indicates a pause to perform an action.
  - I stopped to tie my shoelaces. (I paused my activity to tie my shoes.)
- **Stop doing something** (-ing): This indicates ceasing an ongoing activity.
  - I stopped smoking last year. (I quit the habit.)

# Using "Remember" and "Forget"

"Remember" and "forget" are verbs that can be followed by both forms, with distinct meanings:

1. **Remember to do:** Refers to recalling to perform an action in the future.

- Remember to send the email. (A reminder for a future task.)

2. **Remember doing:** Recalling a past action.

- I remember meeting her at the conference. (A past memory.)

3. **Forget to do:** Failing to perform a future task.

- Don't forget to lock the door. (A reminder not to omit an action.)

4. **Forget doing:** Forgetting a past event.

- I forgot meeting him yesterday. (I don't remember meeting him.)

## Practical Tips for Learners

- Pay attention to the main verb in a sentence, as it often determines whether to use the infinitive or -ing form afterwards.
- Learn common verb patterns and memorize which verbs are followed by which form.
- Be aware of verbs that change meaning depending on the form used, such as "stop," "remember," "forget," "try," and "regret."
- Practice by completing exercises and creating your own sentences to reinforce understanding.
- Read extensively in English to see these constructions in context.

# Exercises for Practice

1. Complete the sentence with the correct form:

- I decided \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new car.
- She enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the piano.
- They promised \_\_\_\_\_ (help) us with the project.
- He stopped \_\_\_\_\_ (smoke) last year.
- Remember \_\_\_\_\_ (call) your mother.

2. Identify the correct form in each sentence:

- I stopped to rest / resting after a long walk.
- He forgot to lock the door / locking the door.
- We plan to visit / visiting Paris next summer.
- I enjoy to read / reading books in my free time.
- She decided to leave / leaving early.

## Conclusion

Mastering the use of the infinitive and the -ing form of verbs is essential for achieving grammatical accuracy and clarity in English communication. While many verbs have predictable patterns, the nuanced cases where the choice affects meaning require careful attention and practice. By understanding the rules, recognizing common verb patterns, and engaging in regular exercises, learners can confidently complete sentences with the correct form of the verb. Remember, exposure to authentic language use and consistent practice are key to mastering this aspect of English grammar. Whether you're describing future intentions, past memories, or ceasing actions, choosing the right form will make your speech and writing more precise and expressive.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Complete the sentence: I have stopped \_\_\_\_ (smoke) for health reasons.**

I have stopped smoking.

**Complete the sentence: She has stopped \_\_\_\_ (call) her friends lately.**

She has stopped calling her friends lately.

**Complete the sentence: They have stopped \_\_\_\_ (play) football because of the rain.**

They have stopped playing football because of the rain.

**Complete the sentence: We have stopped \_\_\_\_ (eat) fast food to eat healthier.**

We have stopped eating fast food to eat healthier.

**Complete the sentence: He has stopped \_\_\_\_ (work) late hours recently.**

He has stopped working late hours recently.

**Complete the sentence: I have stopped \_\_\_\_ (worry) about things I can't control.**

I have stopped worrying about things I can't control.

**Complete the sentence: She has stopped \_\_\_\_ (study) for her exams now.**

She has stopped studying for her exams now.

**Complete the sentence: They have stopped \_\_\_\_ (travel) abroad due to the pandemic.**

They have stopped traveling abroad due to the pandemic.

**Complete the sentence: We have stopped \_\_\_\_ (try) to fix the old car ourselves.**

We have stopped trying to fix the old car ourselves.

## Additional Resources

Mastering the Art of Completing Sentences with the Infinitive or -ing Form of Verbs: A Deep Dive

Language learning is a journey filled with nuances, rules, and exceptions. Among the many areas that can challenge both native and non-native speakers is understanding when to use the infinitive form of a verb versus the gerund (-ing) form. One common exercise that encapsulates this challenge is completing sentences with the correct verb form. This process not only sharpens grammatical accuracy but also enhances comprehension and expressive capabilities.

In this comprehensive review, we focus on the sentence completion pattern: "Complete the sentences with the infinitive or the -ing form of the verbs in brackets." We will use the specific example sentence: "I have stopped," as a starting point to explore the intricacies involved, and then expand to broader principles, rules, and examples.

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## Understanding the Basics: Infinitive vs. -ing Forms

Before diving into specific sentence completion exercises, it is essential to clarify what the infinitive and gerund forms are and how they function within English grammar.

### What is the Infinitive?

- The infinitive is the base form of a verb, usually preceded by "to" (e.g., to read, to write, to eat).
- It can function as a noun, adjective, or adverb within a sentence.
- Examples:
  - I want to learn Spanish.
  - She hopes to visit Paris.

### What is the Gerund (-ing form)?

- The gerund is the -ing form of a verb functioning as a noun.
- It often describes an action or activity.
- Examples:
  - Reading books is enjoyable.
  - He enjoys cooking.

## Key Differences and Usage Patterns

| Aspect              | Infinitive                                      | Gerund (-ing)                                 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Function as a noun  | Less common                                     | Yes                                           |
| After certain verbs | Some verbs prefer infinitive (e.g., want, hope) | Some verbs prefer gerund (e.g., enjoy, avoid) |
| To express purpose  | Usually with "to"                               | Not used                                      |

| After prepositions | Usually not | Yes |  
| To express purpose | To + infinitive | Not applicable |

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## Common Verbs and Their Complementation Patterns

Many verbs are followed by either an infinitive or a gerund, and understanding these patterns is crucial for correct sentence completion.

### Verbs Followed by the Infinitive

- Want
- Hope
- Decide
- Plan
- Promise
- Refuse
- Expect
- Learn
- Fail

### Examples:

- I decided to leave early.
- She hopes to see you tomorrow.
- They promised to help us.

### Verbs Followed by the Gerund

- Enjoy
- Avoid
- Consider
- Mind
- Suggest
- Keep
- Finish
- Imagine

### Examples:

- I enjoy reading books.
- He avoids driving at night.
- We considered moving to a new city.

### Verbs That Can Be Followed by Either Form (with Slight Meaning Differences)

Some verbs can be followed by either an infinitive or a gerund, with a change in meaning:

- Stop
  - I stopped smoking. (I quit smoking.)
  - I stopped to smoke. (I paused what I was doing in order to smoke.)
- Remember
  - I remember meeting her. (I recall the event.)

- I remembered to meet her. (I didn't forget to meet her.)

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## Deep Dive into "I Have Stopped": Exploring Its Usage

The sentence "I have stopped" provides an excellent entry point to discuss the nuances of choosing the correct verb form in context.

### Understanding "Stopped" in Different Contexts

- When used with a gerund (-ing), "stopped" indicates ceasing an activity:
  - I have stopped smoking.
  - She has stopped playing the piano.
- When used with an infinitive (less common with "stop," but possible in certain contexts), it can imply pausing to do something:
  - I have stopped to rest. (I paused my activity to rest.)

Implication: The presence of "have stopped" signals a perfect aspect, implying the action was completed at some point before now.

### Examples of "I Have Stopped" with Different Complements

1. Stopped + -ing (gerund):
  - I have stopped eating junk food.
  - She has stopped working late at night.
  - They have stopped arguing.
2. Stopped + infinitive:
  - I have stopped to check the map.
  - She has stopped to answer the phone.

Note: The choice between gerund and infinitive after "stop" can drastically change the meaning, making it essential to consider context.

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## Practical Guidelines for Sentence Completion

When faced with sentences requiring completion with the infinitive or -ing form, consider these guidelines:

1. Identify the Main Verb and Its Pattern
  - Does the main verb typically take an infinitive or a gerund?

- Refer to a list of verbs and their preferred complements.

## 2. Examine the Context

- Is the sentence describing a habitual action, a completed action, or a purpose?
- Is there a reason to emphasize the activity or the result?

## 3. Pay Attention to Meaning Changes

- Recognize that using the wrong form can lead to different or incorrect meanings.
- For example:
  - I stopped to smoke — I paused my activity to smoke.
  - I stopped smoking — I quit smoking altogether.

## 4. Use Clues from Surrounding Words

- Look for prepositions (e.g., "to," "for," "about") that influence verb form.
- Note adverbs or time expressions that clarify aspect.

## 5. Practice with Examples

- Regularly practice filling in sentences to internalize patterns.

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# In-Depth Examples of Sentence Completion

Let's analyze some sentences with blanks to demonstrate correct completion:

### Example 1:

- I decided \_\_\_ (go) to the party early.
- Answer: to go (infinitive)
- Explanation: "Decide" is followed by the infinitive.

### Example 2:

- She enjoys \_\_\_ (dance) in the rain.
- Answer: dancing (gerund)
- Explanation: "Enjoy" is followed by a gerund.

### Example 3:

- They plan \_\_\_ (visit) their grandparents next weekend.
- Answer: to visit (infinitive)
- Explanation: "Plan" is followed by an infinitive.

### Example 4:

- He avoided \_\_\_ (tell) the truth.
- Answer: telling (gerund)
- Explanation: "Avoid" is followed by a gerund.

### Example 5:

- I have stopped \_\_\_ (to take) a break because I was exhausted.
- Answer: to take (infinitive)
- Explanation: The phrase indicates pausing for a purpose.

Example 6:

- After finishing his homework, he went out \_\_\_\_ (play) soccer.
- Answer: to play (infinitive)
- Explanation: The phrase "went out" is followed by the infinitive to indicate purpose.

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## Complex Cases and Exceptions

While many verb patterns are straightforward, some present exceptions or subtle distinctions.

"Stop" - The Classic Example

- As previously discussed, "stop" can be followed by either the gerund or infinitive, with different meanings.
- Stop + gerund: Ceases an activity.
- Stop + infinitive: Pauses an activity to do something.

"Remember" and "Forget"

- Remember + gerund: Recall past actions.
- I remember meeting her before.
- Remember + infinitive: Remember to do something.
- Remember to call him.
- Forget + gerund: Forgot an action in the past.
- I forgot locking the door.
- Forget + infinitive: Fail to remember to do something.
- I forgot to lock the door.

"Regret"

- Regret + gerund: Feel sorry about a past action.
- I regret quitting my job.
- Regret + infinitive: (less common) To express remorse about future actions, e.g., I regret to inform you.

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## Practical Tips for Learners

To master sentence completion exercises with infinitives and gerunds, consider these tips:

- Create flashcards with verbs on one side and their preferred complements on the other.
- Engage in exercises that focus on verb patterns.
- Read extensively to see real examples of verb forms in context.
- Write sentences of your own, experimenting with both forms to understand subtle differences.
- Use language learning apps that emphasize verb patterns and provide immediate feedback.

# Conclusion: The Path to Fluency in Verb Complements

Completing sentences

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