

Grammar review

Gerunds and infinitives – Changes in meaning

Stop

Stop + -ing: dejar de hacer algo, parar de hacer algo

I stopped smoking two months ago

Stop + to + infinitive: dejar de hacer algo para hacer otra cosa, parar para hacer algo

I stopped (driving) to smoke

Go on

Go on + -ing: seguir haciendo lo que estás haciendo

Please, go on reading.

Go on + to + infinitive: seguir (haciendo algo) para hacer otra cosa

Go on (working) to finish early

Forget

Forget + -ing: olvidar algo que has hecho, no tener el recuerdo de algo

I will never forget walking on the beach / I didn't forget closing the door

Forget + to + infinitive: olvidarse de tener que hacer algo

Please don't forget to close the door

Remember

Remember + -ing: recordar que has hecho algo, tener el recuerdo de algo

I remember posting the letter

Remember + to + infinitive: acordarse de hacer algo

Please, remember to post the letter

Regret

Regret + -ing: lamentar algo que has hecho, arrepentirse de algo
I regret not accepting the job / I regret not having accepted the job
Regret + to + infinitive: lamentar tener que hacer algo
I regret to tell you that you are fired

Try

Try + -ing: probar a hacer algo
I have a headache; I will try having a pill
Try + to + infinitive: intentar hacer algo, esforzarse para hacer algo
I will try to study more next year

Mean

Mean + -ing: significar, implicar, conllevar
Being a doctor means studying a lot
Mean + to + infinitive: tener la intención de, pretender
I didn't mean to hurt you (= I didn't want to hurt you = It was not my intention to hurt you)