**Verbs patterns (gerund or infinitive)**

**Verbs that are always followed by the ING (gerund)**

* When the word is the subject of a clause:

*Swimming is good exercise.*

*Doctors say that smoking is bad for you.*

* After a preposition:

*I look forward to meeting you.*

*They left without saying goodbye.*

* After certain verbs:

Miss- *I miss playing guitar on the weekend*

Appreciate- *I appreciated playing the guitar on the weekend*

Practice- *I’m going to practice playing the guitar on the weekend*

Consider- *I have considered playing the guitar on the weekend*

Cant’stand- *I can’t stand playing the guitar on the weekend*

avoid, dislike, enjoy, finish, give up, mind/not mind,

**Verbs that are always followed by the (to) infinitive**

* After adjectives, for example: disappointed, glad, happy, pleased, relieved, sad, surprised

*I was happy to help them.*

*She will be delighted to see you.*

*The water was too cold to swim in.*

*Is your coffee too hot to drink?*

*He was strong enough to lift it.*

*She is rich enough to buy two.*

* After certain verbs, for example:

forget, help, learn, teach, train, wait

choose, expect, hope, need, offer, want, would like

agree, encourage, pretend, promise, plan

allow, can/can't afford, decide, manage, mean, refuse

*I forgot to close the window.*

*Mary needs to leave early.*

*We can't afford to take a long holiday.*

*I’m going to offer to pay the bill*

*I was waiting to catch the bus*

*I have decided to study harder.*

*I hope to get a good job*

*I didn’t plan to pay the bill*

**Other Patterns**

* Some verbs can be used with both form and it doesn’t change meaning. Some of these verbs include:

Like- I like to eat / I like eating

Continue- I continued to eat / I continued eating

Start- I started to eat / I started eating

* Some verbs like “**stop**”can use both pattern but the meaning changes. For example:

**Remember**- I remembered to lock the door (I didn’t forget)

– I remember locking the door (I have that memory in my mind)

**Forget**- I forgot to lock the door (I didn’t remember)

– I forget telling you to lock the door (I don’t have that memory)

**Try**- I tried to tell you what happened (a failed attempt at something)

– Have you tried telling her (a suggested way fix a problem)

These ones tend to be the most difficult to understand, but it’s very important not to get too stressed out about memorizing all of them because this is something that tends to happen naturally with the more exposure to English you have.