

Grammar Explanation

Using infinitives (*to act*) and gerunds (*acting*)

Whether to use an infinitive (e.g., *to go*) or a gerund (e.g., *going*) depends on what comes before the gerund or the infinitive.

- Some verbs are always followed by infinitives.
 - Example: *Several drug users **volunteered to participate** in the survey.*

(For additional information, see the handout: **Common verbs and adjectives followed by infinitives.**)

- Some verbs are always followed by gerunds.
 - Example: *A few of the participants **avoided answering** the questions.*

(For additional information, see the handout: **Common verbs followed by gerunds.**)

- Some verbs can be followed by infinitives or gerunds.
 - Example: *They **preferred keeping** details of their drug use a secret.*
 - Example: *They **preferred to answer** those questions that were less direct.*

(For additional information, see the handout: **Common verbs followed by either gerunds or infinitives.**)

- Some adjectives, such as *difficult* and *interesting*, are always followed by infinitives.
 - Example: *It was **difficult to convince** the survey participants that their responses would be kept anonymous.*

(For additional information, see the handout: **Common verbs and adjectives followed by infinitives.**)

- Prepositions, such as *about*, *of*, are always followed by gerunds.
 - Example: *The research subjects were afraid **of revealing** something about themselves that might get them in trouble with the law.*

Excerpted from: Verb Forms: Exercise 6