

10.9. Two verbs appearing together

When two *verbs* (or *verb forms*) appear together, the *first* verb determines whether the *second* verb will be in the *gerund* form (-ing form of the verb, functioning as *noun*; more about *gerunds* in section 6.4.1) or in the *infinitive* form (to + the basic form of the verb).

Players expect to have support from the sports management.

- The main verb *expect* followed by the infinitive *to have*.

Players anticipate reaching the finals of the world championship.

- The main verb *anticipate* followed by the gerund *reaching*.

The only way to know is to *memorize* which verbs are followed by *gerunds* and which are followed by *infinitives*. However, the silver lining is that *most* verbs are followed by *infinitives*. Following are some of the key verbs that are followed by *gerunds* (-ing form of the verb). So, if the verb is *not* in the list below, that verb is very likely followed by an *infinitive*.

<i>appreciate</i>	<i>delay</i>	<i>enjoy</i>	<i>postpone</i>	<i>regret</i>	<i>resist</i>	<i>suggest</i>
<i>avoid</i>	<i>deny</i>	<i>finish</i>	<i>practice</i>	<i>report</i>	<i>risk</i>	<i>tolerate</i>
<i>consider</i>	<i>discuss</i>	<i>imagine</i>	<i>recommend</i>	<i>resent</i>	<i>stop</i>	<i>understand</i>

If the verb is not found in the above list, it is most probably followed by an infinitive.

A sentence based on official question (#18, OG-13: *Warning that computers in the United States...*):

Acknowledging that malnutrition in children has long term debilitating effects, the committee on child malnutrition has urged the Government to set up a strong institutional mechanism to bring about convergence, install GPS systems on all ambulances, and create a nutrition council for taking charge of implementing the national nutrition policy.

Analysis: The sentence uses two verb forms *create* and *take*. As is generally true, in such cases, the second verb form *take* should be in the infinitive form (*to take*) and not in the gerund form (*taking*). Hence, the correct sentence is:

Acknowledging that malnutrition in children has long term debilitating effects, the committee on child malnutrition has urged the Government to set up a strong institutional mechanism to bring about convergence, install GPS systems on all ambulances, and create a nutrition council to take charge of implementing the national nutrition policy.

Another sentence based on official question (#68, OG-13: *Outlining his strategy for nursing...*):

Sparking speculation that the company may in future plan to introduce variable pricing, it announced plans curtailing data speeds on flat-rate DSL plans.

Analysis: The sentence uses two verb forms *announced* and *curtail*. As is generally true, in such cases, the second verb form *curtail* should be in the infinitive form (*to curtail*) and not in the gerund form (*curtailing*). Hence, the correct sentence is:

Sparking speculation that the company may in future plan to introduce variable pricing, it announced plans to curtail data speeds on flat-rate DSL plans.