

Verb Form Grammar Tutorial Worksheet

For the Tutor

Some verbs are limited by the forms they can combine with. For example, some verbs are followed by infinitives, as in “I *agreed to look over* the article.” Other verbs are followed by gerunds, as in “Do you *deny telling* her that?” Some verbs can be followed by infinitives or gerunds, as in “Lixin *likes skiing* or Lixin *likes to ski*.” A more limited list of verbs is followed by the base form, as in “Let me *help* you carry that.”

This type of verb formation is not rule based but must be learned through careful listening and reading, emphasizing the point that much of grammar is illogical and harder to master than native English speakers may realize.

Because of the difficulty that ESL writers may find in mastering this, a tutoring session may be limited to focusing on just one or two of these verbs at a time. Although the slow pace may be frustrating for both tutor and tutee, such sessions are valuable nonetheless.

For the ESL Writer

NONRULE-BASED VERB FORMATION

Study the verbs below that must be followed by infinitives, gerunds, or either infinitives or gerunds:

INFINITIVES	GERUNDS	EITHER INFINITIVES OR GERUNDS	BASE FORM
agree	deny	like	let
offer	finish	try	have
decide	suggest	begin	make
hope	dislike	remember	
plan	discuss	start	

CORRECTED EXAMPLES

- Aradhna *began study* chemistry in high school. (incorrect)
- Aradhna *began to study* chemistry in high school. (correct)
- Aradhna *began studying* chemistry in high school. (correct)

In the above examples, the verb *began* must be followed by either an infinitive or a gerund.

- Dhiren *hopes finding* the bookstore before he goes back to the forms. (incorrect)
- Dhiren *hopes to find* the bookstore before he goes back to the forms. (correct)

In the above example, the verb *hope* must be followed by an infinitive.

PRACTICE SENTENCES

- Svetlana plans *finish* her degree by 2012.
- Kaulana’s and Sliman’s relatives suggest *to plan* a June wedding.
- Giovanni remembers *ride* an elephant when he was younger.
- Yumi makes her sister *to do* her homework every night.
- Luu tries *run* for 30 minutes every day.