No place to hide

Grammar folder

Some verbs can be followed by both a gerund and an infinitive. Depending on the verb, this can result in a change in meaning.

No change in meaning

Verbs such as start, begin, continue, attempt, intend, be accustomed to, be committed to, can’t bear.
These can be used with either a gerund or an infinitive with no real change in meaning:
The audience started to clap when the performance finished.
The audience started clapping when the performance finished.

Slight change in meaning

Verbs such as like, prefer, hate, love.
Compare:
I like swimming. In general.
I like to swim in the morning. Talking about a habit.
Note that in American English, the infinitive is used more often than the gerund for both meanings.
After would like, would prefer, would hate and would love an infinitive is used for a particular occasion or event:
Would you like to dance?

A change in meaning

Verbs such as try, stop, regret, remember, forget, mean, go on.

Try
I tried to open the window, but it was stuck. I couldn’t do it as it was too difficult.
It was hot, so I tried opening the window. I did it as an experiment to see if some fresh air would help.

Stop
I stopped the car to get some petrol. Purpose.
I stopped going to that garage when they put their prices up.
I didn’t go there any more.

Regret
I regret to tell you that we have no more rooms available. Giving bad news.
I regret not making more friends when I was at school. For past events.

Remember and forget
I remember neve forget going to New York by Concorde when I was quite small. This happened in the past.
I must remember/mustn’t forget to buy a newspaper while I’m out shopping. Events that still haven’t happened.

Mean
I mean to work hard at university. Intention.
It will mean going to the library more often. Involve/this is the result.

Go on
When I’ve finished shopping, I think I’ll go on to see a film.
A change of activity.
Please don’t stop, go on showing us your photos. Continue.

1 Look at the vocabulary below. These are all words and phrases that you will see in the article you are going to read. Fill the gaps in the sentences with the word or phrase which fits best. (You may have to change the form of the verb.) Remember to use your English-English dictionary to help you.

- to cover your tracks
- a forensic scientist
- the suspect
- genetic code
- to prove
- evidence
- guilty
- to take someone to court
- be caught red-handed

a My sister studied to be a doctor but then decided she wanted to change careers and become ........................................ working alongside the police.
b It’s up to the prosecution ........................................ you committed a crime.
c The shoplifter was ........................................ with the CD under her coat.
d Psychologists believe you can tell if someone is ........................................ by their body language.
e Everyone has a completely different ........................................ unless they are identical twins.
f When the police have enough ........................................ they will arrest ........................................
g It is virtually impossible nowadays ........................................ completely when you’ve committed a crime – there is always something that will give you away.
h If you are caught drinking and driving you will be ........................................ and fined.
2 You are going to read an article about detecting crime. Choose the most suitable summary sentence from the list A–H for each part (1–6) of the article. There is one extra sentence that you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A The police and forensic scientists are still happy to use tried and trusted methods.

B More scientists are needed to find new and better ways of tracking down criminals.

C Scientists are both introducing and updating ideas all the time in the war against crime.

D Forensic scientists were quick to see the potential of a new technique.

E Scientists can now give police very firm evidence of a suspect being at the scene of a crime.

F Scientists have a technique which enables them to search large areas effectively.

G Scientists cannot always prove someone’s guilt from some tests they do.

H Certain scientists specialise in gathering evidence from the scene of the crime.

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The Professionals

0 Scientists believe that it is impossible for someone to commit a crime without leaving something behind or taking something away with them. If these traces of evidence can be found, they may provide the proof needed to bring the criminal to justice. They may take the form of fingerprints, hairs, fibres from clothing, tiny traces of chemicals, documents, bullets or fragments of glass. This evidence is collected and studied by forensic scientists.

1 Science is applied to crime-fighting now more than ever before. As people find new ways to cover their tracks, scientists develop new techniques for linking suspects with their crimes and proving their guilt. Old techniques are constantly being improved so that they can be applied to smaller and smaller traces of materials. In the past, there was no way of identifying a criminal unless he or she was caught red-handed – that is, actually committing the crime. Nowadays the story is very different.

2 Not all evidence, however, carries the same weight of proof. A fingerprint offers definite identification of a person’s presence at the scene of a crime, whereas a footprint may only suggest that someone was there. Nonetheless, all evidence is worth analysing. Even if an item does not offer enough proof to stand up in a court of law, it can still assist the police in focusing their enquiries in a certain direction.

3 Fingerprints have been used to help identify criminals for almost 100 years. In that time, many new scientific research methods have been developed, although the traditional way of dusting surfaces for fingerprints is still used most of the time. In most cases it works very well, but sometimes, different methods are needed.

4 Forensic scientists can now use a small portable laser to look for fingerprints. The scientist ‘paints’ the scene of the crime with the laser beam. As the beam sweeps across doors, walls and furniture, any fingerprints present glow because they are fluorescent.

5 An even more recent technique is called DNA profiling. The human body is composed of millions of microscopic cells. Each cell contains a unique code, the genetic code that determines what we look like and how we develop. The code takes the form of long strings of molecules called DNA, and no two people have identical DNA unless they are identical twins. A technique for reading genetic codes was developed in the 1980s. DNA profiling or genetic fingerprinting was rapidly taken up by the police and forensic scientists as a way of linking suspected criminals with their crimes.

6 The process of making a DNA profile may begin with a scrap of stained clothing found at the scene of the crime. A tuft of hair or spots of blood or saliva can be used too. With a good sample that is rich in DNA, the chance of two people producing the same genetic fingerprint is only one in 2.7 million, which is good enough for a court of law.
Note: Certain verbs or expressions will use a gerund or infinitive. However, there are some verbs that can use both - with or without a change in meaning.

1. No change in meaning
   start, begin, continue

2. A slight change in meaning
   like, prefer, hate, love

3. A change in meaning
   try, stop, regret, remember, forget, mean, go on

4. Complete these sentences with the right form of the verb.
   a. The householder tried ________________ (fit) a burglar alarm to the house to deter thieves.
   b. I remember ________________ (read) about that kidnapping case in the papers some years ago.
   c. I regret ________________ (inform) you that your car tax has expired.
   d. Selling my car will mean ________________ (walk) home in the dark every night.
   e. I'm sure Peter didn't mean ________________ (hurt) the little girl - he only pushed her.
   f. I wasn't shoplifting - I just forgot ________________ (pay) for the scarf.
   g. I regret not ________________ (tell) the police about my suspicions.
   h. Although he'd been arrested for drunk driving he continued ________________ (drink and drive) just the same.
   i. I like ________________ (keep) an eye on my neighbours' houses when they are away.
   j. The policeman talked about robbery in general and then he went on ________________ (talk) about sentencing.
   k. I was mugged as I stopped ________________ (do up) my shoelace.
   l. Susan tried ________________ (run) after the pickpocket but she couldn't catch him.

5. This exercise revises the work done on Gerunds and infinitives in this unit. Complete the following text with the correct form of verb in brackets.

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**Personal Possessions**

A thief only needs a moment
(1) ________________ (make off) with your valuables. Your coat hung up in a restaurant, your briefcase beside your chair, even your cheque book and cheque card left on the table while you pay the bill... all are vulnerable if you look away for a second. So try (2) ________________ (be) careful at all times. Carry your wallet in an inside pocket, preferably one it is possible (3) ________________ (fasten), not your back pocket. If someone bumps into you in a crowd, it's worth (4) ________________ (check)
(5) ________________ (see) that you still have your purse. Try (6) ________________ (avoid)
(7) ________________ (carry) large amounts of cash. When on holiday abroad remember (8) ________________ (take) travellers' cheques. If your credit card is stolen, tell the Card Company immediately. If you delay (9) ________________ (report) the loss, it could (10) ________________ (lead) to a crime being committed in your name.

Never let anyone (11) ________________ (know) your PIN number and remember (12) ________________ (sign) any new plastic cards you receive. In a car, keep your handbag or briefcase out of sight. If you have the windows open a thief may reach in when you stop (13) ________________ (turn) at a junction. Remember that the best way to minimise any risk is by (14) ________________ (take) sensible precautions.
Vocabulary

6 Complete the sentences below.

a The opposite of guilty is ____________ .
b Murderers are usually ____________ to life imprisonment.
c ____________ are people who see a crime being committed.
d In a court there is usually a ____________ of twelve men or women.
e The accused person is called the ____________ .
f The police have to produce ____________ that you have committed a crime.
g For speeding you will usually be given a ____________ .

7 For Questions 1–10, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space.

White-collar Crime

White-collar crime is defined as (1) ____________________________ (LEGAL) acts committed by middle or upper-class people while at work. The term gained (2) ____________________________ (POPULAR) in 1940 when it was first used by the American criminologist Edwin H. Sutherland. Sutherland argued that there were important sociological (3) ____________________________ (DIFFERENT) between conventional crimes such as (4) ____________________________ (BURGLAR) and murder, and white-collar crimes such as fraud and income tax (5) ____________________________ (EVADE). In general, the latter are committed by persons of (6) ____________________________ (RELATIVE) high social status and are treated more leniently than are more (7) ____________________________ (CONVENTION) crimes.

White-collar crime has become an (8) ____________________________ (INCREASE) problem. The authorities are now dealing with such crimes more severely because of a growing feeling that an effort must be made to establish (9) ____________________________ (EQUAL) before the law for all citizens – (10) ____________________________ (REGARD) of money, power or social status.

Idioms

8 Match the sentences in A which use color idioms, with the sentences in B which explain their meaning.

A

1 The invitation to the wedding arrived out of the blue.
2 He went green when he saw the Ferrari that his neighbour had bought.
3 Even though I try to budget I’m perpetually in the red.
4 My uncle has been the black sheep of the family ever since he went to prison for fraud.
5 Anna told the traffic warden a white lie in order to escape having to pay a fine.
6 Stephen came home in a really black mood after being told he wasn’t going to get a pay rise this year.

B

a very angry
b overdrawn
c being slightly dishonest
d envious
e as a surprise
f someone who is unacceptable
Grammar

9 Read the letter and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word which should not be there. If a line is correct, put a tick by the number. If a line has a word which should not be there, underline that word.

There is an example at the beginning (0).

A BAD EXPERIENCE

0 Thank you for the photos you sent me of our holiday together. It was very
great to remember what a good time we had done, especially as I’ve not had
too happy time since I got back. As you know, I’m a member of the city
choir and we meet every Wednesday to do practice. Well, two weeks ago I
got to the meeting as usual. However, on the way to the bus stop a young
woman who stopped me and asked me for directions to a local park. I thought
it was rather strange as though it was already dark and the park would be
closed. Anyway, as I was telling to her she pushed me over and ran off with
my handbag. I was so shocked I didn’t know what to do. A few minutes
later, although it felt like a few hours, someone came along the street and saw
me on the ground. They were very helpful and took after me to the local police
station. I told the police what had happened but they don’t think whether
there’s any chance of my getting my bag back again, unfortunately.

Gerund or infinitive

10 Correct the following sentences where necessary.

a He suggested to buy a detective novel.
b I look forward to hear the results of the case.
c I enjoy watching American cop programmes.
d The burglar alarm needs to be seeing to.
e Let me giving you a description of the mugger.
f The prisoners were made to sew mail bags.
g I can’t afford taking a taxi all the time just to
avoid the Underground.
h The tourist was accustomed to drive his car
faster in his country.
i You are not allowed dropping litter on the street.
j I’d like reporting a burglary.
k She’s too small to be a policewoman.

G

Thank you so much for inviting me
perhaps we will meet again soon.
looking forward to your talk on 6th November
marvellous that you can tell
Me and my family would love to come.
So much from a person’s handwriting
we spent the day at their house.
Sorry I haven’t written for so long.

Writing

11 Read through this article on ‘graphology’, and correct any spelling errors you find. There are twelve errors.

Graphology is the study and analysis of handwriting in order to assess the writer’s personality. In crime detection, graphology is used to determine the authenticity of a signature or document, such as a will or manuscript, without concern for the writer’s personality. Graphologists need at least a full-page ink specimen, written spontaneously under normal physical conditions, by a person able to write with ease. Before the analysis, the graphologist must know the writer’s age, sex, and nationality, none of which is revealed by the writing itself. Handwriting consists of measurable elements, such as slant and size, and of descriptive elements, such as letter form and tendencies to the right and left. However, although the results of handwriting analysis sometimes correspond impressively with experimental evidence, graphology has still not been fully accepted as a legitimate branch of phsychology.