

Remember, Stop, Try: When the Meaning Changes

With **remember**, **forget**, **stop**, **try** and **regret**, the meaning changes. As a rule of thumb, **-ing looks back** at something that already happened, and **to + verb looks forward** to something that comes next: *I remember locking the door* (I did it, and I remember it now). *Remember to lock the door* (do it later).

I **remember locking** the door.



1. Choose the right answer Circle a or b.

- I clearly remember _____ the keys on the table.
a) to put b) putting
- Please remember _____ the lights off.
a) to turn b) turning
- We stopped _____ a coffee on the way.
a) having b) to have
- She stopped _____ when she got pregnant.
a) smoking b) to smoke
- The printer isn't working. Try _____ it off and on again.
a) to turn b) turning

2. Correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. Remember locking the door when you leave!

2. I'll never forget to see the sea for the first time.

3. I've stopped to smoke. I feel great.

3. Your turn

Write three sentences of your own that use this rule. You can use these phrases.

remember doing

remember to do

stop doing

stop to do

try doing

try to do

regret to inform you

See the rule move

The full lesson, with more pictures, examples and a quiz that checks your answers, is free at clarigram.app/gerund-infinitive/meaning-changes

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1. Choose the right answer

1. **b) putting** A memory of the past: remember + -ing.
2. **a) to turn** A task for later: remember + to.
3. **b) to have** You stopped in order to have a coffee: stop + to.
4. **a) smoking** The habit ended: stop + -ing.
5. **b) turning** An experiment to see if it helps: try + -ing.

2. Correct the mistake

1. **Remember to lock the door when you leave!** It's a task for later: to looks forward.
2. **I'll never forget seeing the sea for the first time.** It's a memory: -ing looks back.
3. **I've stopped smoking. I feel great.** The habit ended: stop + -ing.

3. Your turn

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence follows the rule on page 1, or paste them into Clarigram to have them checked.