

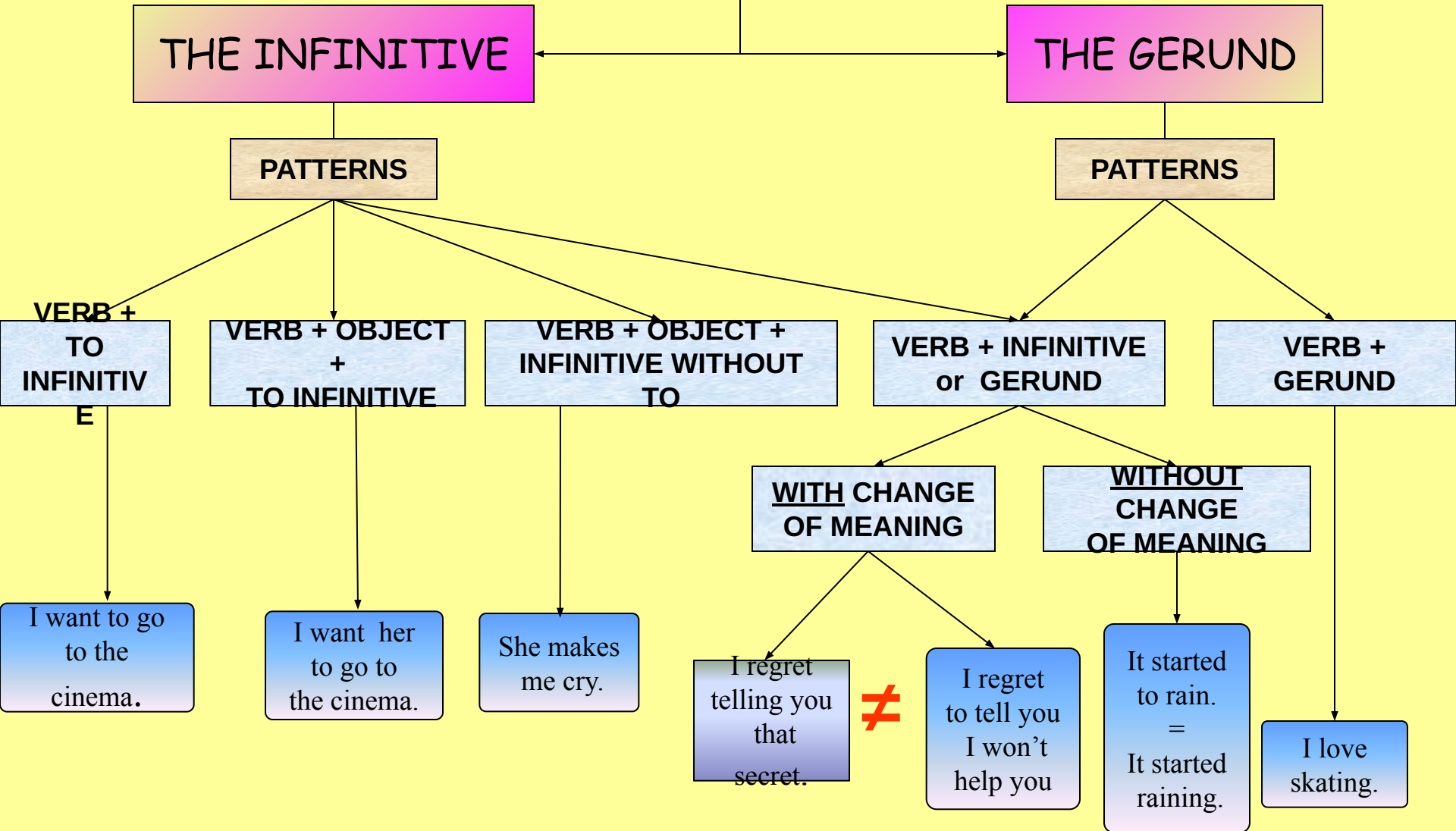
# **VERB PATTERNS IN ENGLISH**

```
graph TD; A[VERB PATTERNS IN ENGLISH] --> B[THE INFINITIVE]; A --> C[THE GERUND];
```

**THE  
INFINITIVE**

**THE  
GERUND**

# VERB PATTERNS IN ENGLISH



# VERB PATTERNS IN ENGLISH

## THE INFINITIVE

### PATTERNS

VERB +  
TO  
INFINITIVE

I **want** **to**  
**go**  
to the  
cinema.

VERB + OBJECT  
+  
TO INFINITIVE

I **want**  
**her**  
**to go** to  
the  
cinema.

VERB + OBJECT +  
INFINITIVE WITHOUT TO

She **made**  
**me** **cry**.

VERB + TO  
INFINITIVE  
or GERUND

WITH  
CHANGE  
OF  
MEANING

She  
**stopped**  
**to smoke**.

≠

She  
**stopped**  
**smoking**.

WITHOUT  
CHANGE  
OF MEANING

I **started** **to**  
**cry**.

=

I **started**  
**crying**.

# VERB + TO INFINITIVE

AGREE  
DECIDE  
HOPE  
FORGET  
LEARN  
PROMISE  
PLAN  
REFUSE  
WANT  
WOULD  
LIKE  
WOULD  
PREFER  
WOULD  
HATE  
WOULD  
LOVE

TO  
DO

They **decided** to **divide** the profits equally.

I **promise** to wait.

He **forgot** to **leave** the car keys on the table.

We **would like** to **visit** Japan in 2006.

She **learnt** to **drive** a car.

She **agreed** to **come** with us.

They **want** to **go** to the football match.

# VERB + OBJECT + TO INFINITIVE

ALLOW  
ASK  
HELP  
NEED  
PERMIT  
INVITE  
ORDER  
REMINDED  
TELL  
WANT  
WOULD  
LIKE  
WOULD  
PREFER  
WOULD  
HATE  
WOULD  
LOVE

Mary  
her  
us  
the  
students  
Peter &  
John

They **allowed** **us** **to go**  
to the party.

We **want** **the students** **to visit** the  
new museum.

She **told** **me** **to**  
go there.

TO  
DO

We **would like** **you** **to come**  
with us.

I **ordered** **Mary**  
**to wait**.

He **asked** **us** **to leave** by  
half past seven.

# VERB + OBJECT + (TO) INFINITIVE

HEL  
P

Ma  
ry  
he  
r

We **helped** Mary **dust** the  
living-room.

L  
E  
T

us

D  
O

She **makes** me  
**cry**.

the  
students

Peter &  
John

She doesn't **let** me **go** to the  
cinema.

MAK  
E

# VERB PATTERNS IN ENGLISH

## THE GERUND

### PATTERNS

VERB + GERUND  
or TO INFINITIVE

VERB +  
GERUND

WITH  
CHANGE  
OF  
MEANING

WITHOUT  
CHANGE  
OF MEANING

She  
stopped  
smoking.

≠

She  
stopped  
to  
smoke.

I started  
crying.  
=  
I started to  
cry.

I love  
singing.

# VERB + GERUND

ADOR  
CAN'T  
CARRY  
DON'T  
ENJOY  
FINISH  
GIVE  
GO  
HATE  
KEEP  
LIKE  
LOOK FORWARD  
TO  
LOVE \*  
PREFER  
\*

DOING

She **loves**  
ice-skating.

We **like** driving  
cars.

They **hated**  
studying English.

I **can't stand** listening  
to hip-hop.

We are **looking forward to**  
meeting Paul.

They **kept on**  
interrupting us.

They **gave up** smoking  
last week.

\* These verbs can also take the TO INFINITIVE, but with a slight difference in meaning.

- With the GERUND, they show a general activity: I like cooking.
- With the TO INFINITIVE, they show a specific activity: I like to cook paella on Sundays.



# VERB + TO INFINITIVE or GERUND

## (WITH CHANGE OF MEANING)

REMEMBER

I remembered to post the letter.

= I reminded myself to post the letter.

≠

I remembered posting the letter.

= I have a memory now of a past action: posting the letter.

STOP

I stopped to smoke.

= I didn't go on in order to have a cigarette.

≠

I stopped smoking.

= I gave up the habit.

TRY

I tried to sleep.

= I wanted to sleep but it was difficult.

≠

I tried counting sheep.

= It was a possible way of getting to sleep.

REGRET

I regret to inform you that we cannot offer you the job.

= I know that you will be unhappy when I tell you.

≠

I regret telling him that secret.

= I told him; now I realise that it was a bad idea.

GO ON

I went on to talk about the exams.

= I changed subjects.

≠

I went on talking for two hours.

= I continued doing the same thing.

# VERB + TO INFINITIVE or GERUND

(WITHOUT CHANGE OF MEANING)

## BEGIN

She began to read  
the book.

=

She began reading  
the book.

## CONTINU E

We'll continue to  
study hard.

=

We'll continue  
studying hard.

## START

I started to cook  
the meal.

=

I started cooking the  
meal.