Grammar Explanation

Using infinitives (*to act*) and gerunds (*acting*)

Whether to use an infinitive (e.g., *to go*) or a gerund (e.g., *going*) depends on what comes before the gerund or the infinitive.

- Some verbs are always followed by infinitives.
  - Example: Several drug users *volunteered to participate* in the survey.
    (For additional information, see the handout: Common verbs and adjectives followed by infinitives.)

- Some verbs are always followed by gerunds.
  - Example: A few of the participants *avoided answering* the questions.
    (For additional information, see the handout: Common verbs followed by gerunds.)

- Some verbs can be followed by infinitives or gerunds.
  - Example: They *preferred keeping* details of their drug use a secret.
  - Example: They *preferred to answer* those questions that were less direct.
    (For additional information, see the handout: Common verbs followed by either gerunds or infinitives.)

- Some adjectives, such as *difficult* and *interesting*, are always followed by infinitives.
  - Example: *It was difficult to convince* the survey participants that their responses would be kept anonymous.
    (For additional information, see the handout: Common verbs and adjectives followed by infinitives.)

- Prepositions, such as *about*, *of*, are always followed by gerunds.
  - Example: The research subjects were afraid *of revealing* something about themselves that might get them in trouble with the law.

Excerpted from: Verb Forms: Exercise 6