Gerunds and Infinitives

The to + infinitive after these verbs expresses purpose as it replaces a purpose clause, while the gerund is the object of the verb and refers to a completed action.

Don’t **forget to meet** her at 10 this morning. (= You should meet her at 10…)  
*I’ll never **forget meeting** her for the first time.* (= I’ll never forget when I met her the first time.)

*When you were in London did you **remember to visit** the British Museum?* (= …did you remember that you should visit the British Museum?)  
*I don’t **remember ever visiting** this museum.* (= I don’t remember if I have ever visited this museum.)

*We **regret to tell** you that your application has been rejected.* (= We are sorry that we have to tell you…)  
*I **regret telling** her about the party.* (= I am sorry that I have told her about the party.)

*Wherever you are, **go on to read** the next chapter.* (= Continue with the next chapter.)  
*Go on **reading** the article.* (= Continue reading the article.)

*We **stopped to drink** a cup of coffee.* (= We stopped in order to drink a cup of coffee.)  
*Why don’t you **stop drinking** coffee?* (= Why don’t you give up drinking coffee?)

*I **tried to give up** smoking but I couldn’t.* (= I made an attempt to give up smoking but I failed.)  
*I **tried giving up** smoking but it didn’t help.* (= I gave up smoking but it didn’t help.)

*I **didn’t mean to call you.*** (=I didn’t intend to call you)

Arriving late to work **means staying later.** (=Because I was late, I have to stay later).

After these verbs to + infinitive expresses future, while the gerund refers to past, relative to the time of speaking

1. Miranda stopped _____________ the horror film as it was getting too scary. (watch)
2. I was late for work because I stopped _____________ to some friends. (talk)
3. We regret _____________ you that our hotel is fully booked until the end of August. (inform)
4. Max regrets _____________ to the meeting. It was a waste of time. (go)
5. I clearly remember _____________ Grace at the party. She was talking to Charlotte and Amy. (see)
6. Remember _____________ your grandmother tomorrow. It's her birthday. (call)
7. Don't forget _____________ your swimsuits! There’s a lovely pool at the hotel. (pack)
8. Amanda will never forget _____________ Lady Gaga in concert. What a great night out! (see)
9. Real Madrid tried very hard _____________ a goal but they just couldn't get through Barcelona's defence. (score)
10. For a delicious alternative try _____________ olive instead of butter to pasta. (add)
11. Sorry, I didn’t mean _____________ you. I was trying to call my Mom. (call)
12. Being a good friend means _____________ in difficult times. (help)