

Q: Gerund or infinitive: Again, I picked up an exercise in Murphy's grammar: *How does this computer work? - Try PRESSING that button.* How can I explain the use of the gerund here? (result of an experiment?). What's the difference between this and *Try TO PRESS that button?*

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A: Hi Daniela. Yes, I think you've got it. Is this helpful?

Try to = make an effort to do something (perhaps it's difficult) eg *I tried to ski (but I was hopeless!)*

Try + Ving = experiment with eg *I tried skiing (but it wasn't my cup of tea)*

As you can see, the difference sometimes may be insignificant, or very subtle indeed.