

-ing form

to-infinitive

bare infinitive

-ing form

	COMMON VERBS	EXAMPLES
likes and dislikes	<i>dislike can't stand enjoy hate* like* love* (not) mind prefer*</i>	<i>I enjoy not doing anything sometimes. Simon doesn't mind working late today.</i>
ideas and opinions	<i>admit consider imagine look forward to recommend suggest think of</i>	<i>Do you admit stealing that watch? I'd recommend staying near the beach. He suggested paying by credit card.</i>
actions that start, stop or continue	<i>begin* continue* delay give up start* stop* finish keep (on) practise put off spend (time)</i>	<i>Has he given up smoking? I spent two hours preparing this meal. Lena practises singing every day.</i>
others	<i>avoid can't help deny involve mention miss risk</i>	<i>You can't risk losing your job over a silly argument.</i>



In the verb *look forward to*, *to* is a preposition, so we use an *-ing* form:

X I'm looking forward to see you again. ✓ I'm looking forward to seeing you again.

The *-ing* form sometimes needs to be

- negative: *I hate **not getting** to a station or airport on time.*
- perfect (for an earlier action): *Joe admitted **having sent** the wrong email. (= that he had sent)*
- passive: *Don't ring after 10.30 – I hate **being woken up** by the phone!*

to-infinitive

	VERBS	EXAMPLES
mental states or activity	agree choose decide forget* learn remember* want wish	Did you agree to help them? Why did we decide to go camping?! I'm learning to read classical Arabic.
future arrangements	aim arrange expect hope offer plan prepare promise refuse threaten	The hotel aims to provide excellent service. The college promised not to give up my place. Our neighbours are threatening to call the police!
appearance	appear, pretend, seem, tend	Mr Knowles doesn't seem to be very confident. People round here tend not to go to bed early.
other	attempt (can/can't) afford ask deserve fail offer try*	We can't afford to eat out tonight. The letter failed to arrive on time.

The infinitive sometimes needs to be

- negative: She **appears not to worry** about her weight. (NOT ~~to not worry~~)
- continuous: I **expect to be earning** a lot of money when I'm forty! (a continuous action)
- perfect: We **plan to have finished** all of the decorating by July. (an action that will be completed in the future)
- passive: Jack drives over the speed limit all the time – he **deserves to be caught**.

would like, etc.

We use the infinitive with *to* after *would ('d) + like/love/hate/prefer*:

I'd really like to learn a new skill – perhaps we could go sailing?

Jackie would prefer not to go out this evening as she's really tired.

We can use the *-ing* form after *like, love, hate* and *prefer* without *would ('d)*

Compare:

I'd love to go mountain climbing. (in the future)

I love going mountain climbing. (= I enjoy the activity.)

I'd prefer to stay in tonight. (on this occasion)

I prefer eating at home to eating in restaurants. (in general)

Verb (+ object) + infinitive with to

With some verbs it is possible to put an object between the first verb and the infinitive:

*ask beg dare expect help intend mean need
require want wish would like/love/hate/prefer*

verb + infinitive + to	verb + object + infinitive with to
<i>Sami wants to find a better job.</i>	<i>Sami wants his son/him to find a better job.</i>
<i>I didn't intend to spend so much money.</i>	<i>I didn't intend Lara/her to spend so much money.</i>

! We don't use a *that* clause after these verbs:

~~*X We begged Antonia that she didn't go out alone.*~~ ✓ *We begged Antonia not to go out alone.*

! We can use the infinitive with or without *to* after *help*:

I'll help you carry those bags. / I'll help you to carry those bags.

Verb + object + infinitive with to

With other verbs we ALWAYS put an object between the first verb and the infinitive:

*advise allow cause encourage forbid force invite permit
persuade recommend remind teach tell order warn*

*Mrs Grant is **teaching Justin to play** the piano.*

*We always **encourage the students to plan** their revision.*

*Can you **remind me to set** the alarm for 6.30 when we go to bed?*



To make the infinitive verb negative we put *not* BEFORE *to*:

*~~X The police persuaded the gunman to not shoot.~~ ✓ The police persuaded the gunman **not to shoot.***

Some verbs (*advise, allow, forbid, permit, recommend*) can also be followed by an *-ing* form as an object

*The management does not **allow staff to smoke.***

*BUT The management does not **allow smoking.***

*We **recommend students to use** a good dictionary.*

*BUT We **recommend using** a good dictionary.*

Verb + infinitive or -ing form

2 Infinitive or -ing form with different meanings

VERB	+ -ing FORM	+ to + INFINITIVE
<i>forget/ remember</i>	for an event or situation in the past: <i>I'll never forget riding my first bike. Do you remember learning to swim?</i>	for something you should do/should have done: <i>Don't forget to lock the back door! Did you remember to bring the CDs?</i>
<i>go on</i>	continue an activity: <i>They stopped, but we went on walking.</i>	change from one action to another: <i>After a slow start, she went on to win the race.</i>
<i>regret</i>	feel sorry about something you did/ didn't do: <i>I regret not studying harder at school.</i>	say sorry, particularly in formal letters: <i>We regret to inform you that you have not been called for interview ...</i>
<i>stop</i>	finish an action: <i>Have you stopped practising now?</i>	finish an action in order to do something else: <i>No, we've just stopped to take a break.</i>
<i>try</i>	do something as an experiment: <i>Try turning it off and on again.</i>	attempt to do something difficult: <i>I'm not an electrician, but I'll try to mend it.</i>

bare infinitive

after modal verbs +

make and let

The verbs *make* and *let* always have an object, and are followed by the infinitive without *to*:

Mrs Grant makes Justin practise every day. (= forces him to)

Our manager lets us work from home once or twice a week. (= allows us to)

The soldiers made the prisoners walk 50 kilometres.

But in the passive, we use *to* before the infinitive. For *let*, we use *allowed to*

The prisoners were made to walk 50 kilometres before they were allowed to sleep.

~~*X ... they weren't let to sleep.*~~ ✓ *They weren't allowed to sleep.*

would rather + infinitive without to

After *would rather* we can use the infinitive without *to*. We only use this if the subject of *would rather* and the second verb is the same:

same subject

We'd rather we went by plane. = *We'd rather go by plane.*

complex object

feel, hear, see, etc. + infinitive or *-ing* form

After sense verbs (e.g. *feel, hear, see*) we can use

- object + infinitive without *to*
- object + *-ing* form.

The meaning is slightly different:

We were watching the runway and saw your plane arrive. (= We saw the plane as it came down and landed.)

We saw your plane arriving as we parked the car. (= We saw the plane in the sky, but we didn't see it land.)

need, help and can't help + -ing form

The verbs *need* and *help* have different meanings, depending on their form:

I need to drink some water. (+ infinitive with *to* = physical necessity)

This room needs cleaning. (+ *-ing* form = someone should clean it)

I help (to) run the local charity shop. (+ infinitive with *to* = assist, aid)

I couldn't help laughing. (+ *-ing* form = couldn't avoid doing it)

