

**-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<br>forget* learn remember*<br>want wish              | Did you <b>agree to help</b> them?<br>Why did we <b>decide to go</b> camping?!<br>I'm <b>learning to read</b> classical Arabic.  |
| future arrangements       | aim arrange expect hope<br>offer plan prepare promise<br>refuse threaten | The hotel <b>aims to provide</b> excellent service.<br>The college <b>promised not to give up</b> my place.<br>Our neighbours are <b>threatening to call</b> the police! |
| appearance                | appear, pretend, seem, tend  | Mr Knowles <b>doesn't seem to be</b> very confident.<br>People round here <b>tend not to go</b> to bed early.  |
| other                     | attempt (can/can't) afford<br>ask deserve fail offer try*                | We <b>can't afford to eat out</b> tonight.<br>The letter <b>failed to arrive</b> 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/<br/>remember</i> | for an event or situation in the past:<br><i>I'll never forget riding my first bike.<br/>Do you remember learning to swim?</i> | for something you should do/should have done:<br><i>Don't forget to lock the back door!<br/>Did you remember to bring the CDs?</i> |
| <i>go on</i>                | continue an activity:<br><i>They stopped, but we went on walking.</i>  | change from one action to another:<br><i>After a slow start, she went on to win the race.</i>                                      |
| <i>regret</i>               | feel sorry about something you did/<br>didn't do:<br><i>I regret not studying harder at school.</i>                            | say sorry, particularly in formal letters:<br><i>We regret to inform you that you have not been called for interview ...</i>       |
| <i>stop</i>                 | finish an action:<br><i>Have you stopped practising now?</i>   | finish an action in order to do something else:<br><i>No, we've just stopped to take a break.</i>                                  |
| <i>try</i>                  | do something as an experiment:<br><i>Try turning it off and on again.</i>  | attempt to do something difficult:<br><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)



