

Infinitive and *-ing* form I: infinitives without an object

A Starting activities

1 What follows?

Verb + infinitive with and without *to* or verb + *-ing*?

- 1 Work as a class. Some verbs are always followed by the *-ing* form, some are always followed by the infinitive, and some are always followed by the infinitive without *to*. Put the verbs below into three lists: verb + *-ing*, verb + infinitive, verb + infinitive without *to*. To help you decide which list each verb should go in, make sentences like this: *We want to go.*

Verbs: *want, risk, should, promise, avoid, would rather, keep on, offer, refuse, suggest, tend, postpone, deny, ought to*

When you have finished, look at Activity note 29 on page 144.

- 2 Either as a class or in pairs think of two sentences for each of the verbs below. In one sentence each verb must be followed by *-ing* and in the other sentence it must be followed by the infinitive. What is the difference in meaning?

Verbs: *forget, remember, stop*



I remember locking the door.



I remembered to lock the door.

When you have finished, look at Activity note 34 on page 146.

2 Snap!

Memorizing verbs + infinitive and verbs + *-ing*

- 1 Work on your own. Make eight 'cards' by folding two pieces of paper in four and tearing along the folds. Write a different sentence on each 'card'. All of the sentences must have a verb from the **Verb 1** list (below) in them (use the past simple tense), followed by a verb from the **Verb 2** list below. Start and finish the sentence in any way that makes sense.

Examples:

We arranged to go to London together.

He put off doing the housework.

Verb 1: *arrange, agree, choose, decide, dislike, finish, enjoy, expect, fancy, give up, hope, keep, keep on, learn, offer, promise, put off, refuse, risk, stop, suggest, want*

Verb 2: *going, to go, smoking, to drive, doing, to help, watching, to get, to lend, asking, to make, getting, losing, lending, to speak, to pay for*

- 2 Work in pairs. Change cards with your partner and check that the eight sentences that your partner wrote are correct.
- 3 Work in the same pairs. Change cards with another pair, so that you and your partner both have cards you have not seen before. Play a card and say the sentence on it. Your partner plays one of her or his cards and says the sentence on it. If the *second* verb (from the **Verb 2** list) is the same then call out 'Snap!'. The first person to call takes both cards. The first person with all eight cards is the winner.

B Grammar guide

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- 1 Verb + infinitive** ■ These verbs are followed by the infinitive:
- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| <i>She promised to help me.</i> | (can) afford | beg | happen | plan | threaten |
| | agree | not care | hesitate | prepare | volunteer |
| | aim | choose | hope | pretend | (can't) wait |
| | appear | dare | learn | promise | want |
| | arrange | decide | long | refuse | wish |
| | ask | expect | manage | seem | |
| | attempt | fail | offer | tend | |
- If there are two infinitives following the verb, joined by *and*, *but*, *or*, *except* or *than*, we don't use *to* before the second infinitive.
She wanted to sit down and read the paper.
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- 2 Verb + infinitive without to** ■ All modal verbs are followed by the infinitive without *to*: *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *must*, *need*, *ought to*, *shall*, *should*, *will*, *would*.
- *Would rather*, *would sooner* and *had better* are also followed by the infinitive without *to*.
I would rather do it now than later. OR *I'd rather not do it later.*
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- 3 Verb + -ing form** ■ The most useful verbs that are followed by the *-ing* form are: *admit*, *advise*, *avoid*, *carry on*, *consider*, *delay*, *deny*, *dislike*, *enjoy*, *fancy*, *finish*, *give up*, *imagine*, *keep*, *keep on*, *mention*, *(not) mind*, *miss*, *postpone*, *practise*, *put off*, *recommend*, *risk*, *suggest*.
- He enjoys playing football and reading books.*
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- 4 Verb + infinitive or -ing form** ■ The most useful verbs that can be followed by the infinitive or by the *-ing* form are: *begin*, *continue*, *like*, *love*, *hate*, *intend*, *prefer*, *propose*, *start*.
Then he began to tell us what had happened. OR *... began telling...*
- After *would like/love/hate/prefer* we usually use the infinitive.
I would love to ask you a question.
- These verbs can be followed by the infinitive or by the *-ing* form but there is a change of meaning: *forget*, *remember*, *regret*, *go on*, *try*, *stop*.
 With *forget*, *remember* and *regret* the infinitive is 'before the action' and the *-ing* form is 'after the action'.
He remembered to lock the door. (remembered before locking)
He remembered locking the door. (remembered after locking)
Go on with the infinitive means 'do something different'.
He started as a clerk and went on to be a film star.
Go on with the *-ing* form means 'continue'.
He went on being a film star for ten years.
Try with the infinitive means 'do your best'.
She tried to explain on the phone.
Try with the *-ing* form means 'experiment'.
Try writing to him, not phoning.
 The infinitive after *stop* gives the reason for stopping.
Mr Barton stopped to talk to Mrs Drury.
 The *-ing* form after *stop* means the action ended.
He stopped talking when he saw Mrs Drury wasn't listening.

C Activities

1 Changing places

Verbs + infinitive (with and without *to*),
verbs + *-ing*

- 1 Work on your own. There have been many books and films about two people changing lives with each other. Imagine that you are going to change lives with someone. Imagine that you are going to live in their house, drive their car, do their job. Write sentences about your life so that the person you are going to change with knows everything about you. Give them some advice if you can. Use as many as possible of the verbs below followed by the infinitive, infinitive without *to*, or *-ing* form.

Examples:

I dislike eating lunch, so make sure you can go all day without food.

Prepare to look after a very lively eight-year-old child.

You must avoid feeling overworked. I work at least ten hours a day.

I manage to write a bit as well as teaching.

Verbs

afford	finish	like	remember
avoid	forget	love	seem
begin	go on	manage	start
choose	happen	mean	stop
decide	hate	offer	suggest
dislike	help	prefer	try
enjoy	hope	prepare	want
expect	intend	promise	wish
fail	keep	recommend	would rather
feel like	learn	refuse	would sooner

- 2 Work in pairs. Imagine that you are going to change lives with your partner. Tell each other about your lives using the sentences you have written. (Correct each other's sentences if necessary.)
- 3 Work as a class. Tell the class about your partner's life. List the verbs + *-ing*, verbs + infinitive and verbs + infinitive without *to* which other people use in three columns. Who in the class would you most like to change lives with?

2 John considered going to the post office

Verbs + infinitive (with and without *to*),
verbs + *-ing*

- 1 Work in pairs or groups. Tell or write a story which starts *John considered going to the post office*. EVERY sentence of your story must have one of the verbs below in it.

Verbs

admit	enjoy	keep	promise
afford	escape	learn	refuse
agree	expect	let	remember
arrange	fail	manage	risk
ask	fancy	mean	stop
avoid	feel like	mention	seem
beg	finish	(not) mind	start
care	forget	miss	suggest
choose	forgive	offer	try
consider	give up	postpone	want
dare	help	practise	wish
decide	hesitate	put off	would rather
delay	hope	prepare	would sooner
dislike	imagine	pretend	

- 2 Work as a class. Tell your story to the class.

D Accuracy practice

1 Write the sentences again using the infinitive or *-ing* form.

- 1 How about going to Scotland for our holiday this year?
We could _____
- 2 I don't really want to go out this evening.
I'd rather not _____
- 3 Feed the cat twice a day. Please don't forget.
Please remember _____
- 4 I definitely paid for these tins at the checkout.
I remember _____
- 5 It would be dangerous to play tennis before your arm gets better.
Don't risk _____

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of these verbs:

find, go on, go out, do, come back

- 1 We'll have to postpone _____ for a drink with Richard. He's ill.
- 2 Jane has suggested _____ here after the party. What do you think?
- 3 You can't afford _____ spending money like this, you know.
- 4 He hoped _____ a cottage to rent in the country.
- 5 Hey! Nobody mentioned _____ the washing up before we go out.

3 Maria is learning English and working as an au pair in England. This is part of her letter to her elder sister Anna, who teaches English in Italy. Put the verbs in brackets into the infinitive or the *-ing* form.

I want ¹_____ (write) to you in English ²_____ (see) if I can do it. Also, my teacher suggested that I try ³_____ (speak) and ⁴_____ (write) as much English as possible. Well, do you remember all the problems I had at the beginning? My landlady gave me so much work ⁵_____ (do) that I seemed ⁶_____ (be) busy all day. As soon as I had finished ⁷_____ (change) the baby's nappy I had to take the children to school then come home and start ⁸_____ (make) the beds, ⁹_____ (do) the washing up and ¹⁰_____ (clean) the house. Well, Anna, all that is finished now. Last week the au pair agency offered ¹¹_____ (find) me a new family. And guess what . . .

4 Maria and her new family in England, Mr and Mrs Grant, had a party last week. The neighbours, Mr and Mrs Adams, complained. Here is part of a letter from a solicitor (a lawyer). Put the verbs in brackets into the infinitive or the *-ing* form.

. . . and it seems that Mr and Mrs Grant admitted ¹_____ (make) a lot of noise but still refused ²_____ (turn down) the CD player. Mr Adams said that he was prepared ³_____ (accept) the high level of noise until midnight but that he would not hesitate ⁴_____ (call) the police then if the party continued ⁵_____ (disturb) the entire street. Mrs Grant laughed and promised ⁶_____ (invite) Mr Adams to the next party if he would like ⁷_____ (come). Mr Adams considered ⁸_____ (say) something rude in reply but decided not to.