

VERBS + INFINITIVES and VERBS + - ING FORMS (gerunds)

1 Some verbs (e.g. want) are followed by another verb with **to – infinitive**.

Examples:

I decided to go home as soon as possible.

We all wanted to have more English classes.

Common verbs followed by the *to – infinitive* are:

afford, agree, arrange, ask, choose, decide, expect, fail, forget, hope, intend, learn, mean, offer, plan, promise, refuse, want, would like, would love, ...

Examples:

When he was twenty, he hoped to be a pilot.

My parents agreed to pay for the lessons.

I expect him to come as soon as possible.

She has tried to talk to her boss.

I needed to be at work early this morning.

2 Some verbs (e.g. enjoy) are followed by another verb with **- ing form**.

Examples:

I enjoy learning English.

He finished talking.

Common verbs followed by *-ing forms* are:

Verbs of liking and disliking

like, love, enjoy, fancy, dislike, hate, ...

Examples:

I love swimming but I hate jogging.

They always enjoyed visiting their friends.

Verbs of saying and thinking

admit, deny, consider, imagine, suggest

Examples:

Our guide suggested waiting until the storm was over.

Everyone denied seeing the accident.

Other common verbs are:

avoid, can't help, feel like, finish, give up, keep, miss, practise, risk, ...

Examples:

I haven't finished writing my essay.

Let's practise speaking English.

Keep smiling.

3 Some verbs can take either **to - infinitive** or **- ing form**.

After **begin, can't bear, continue, prefer, start** can be used both – ing and to – infinitive with the same meaning.

Examples:

When did you begin to learn/ begin learning karate?

I started to have / started having these headaches about a month ago.

The President continued to speak / continued speaking for an hour.

I prefer to live / prefer living in the country.

After some verbs we can use both – ing and to – infinitive with a different meaning.

remember

*She always remembers **to lock** the door. X I remember **seeing** the Alps for the first time.*

forget

*He often forgets **to lock** the door. X I'll never forget **seeing** the Alps.*

hate

*I hate **to tell** you that you failed the test. X I hate **making** such stupid mistakes.*

try

*I'm trying **to learn** English. X The room was hot. I tried **opening** the window, but it didn't help.*

stop

*I stopped **smoking**. X I stopped **to smoke**.*

!!! TIP

When you learn a new verb, learn what comes after it.

Example: <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

decide /dɪ'saɪd/

A2 [I or T] to choose something, especially after thinking carefully about several possibilities:

*They have to decide by next **Friday**.*

*I don't **mind** which one we have - you decide.*

[+ to infinitive] *In the end, we decided **to go** to the **theatre**.*

[+ (that)] *She decided **(that)** she would **retire** to the **country***

[+ question word] *I can't decide **what** to do.*

PRACTICE

A Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets in the *-ing* or *to* – infinitive form.

- 1) Do you promise _____ (tidy) your room this weekend?
- 2) I've always wanted _____ (have) a dog.
- 3) Would you mind _____ (open) the window, please? It's too hot here.
- 4) Dogs don't enjoy _____ (be) at home all day.
- 5) Philip refused _____ (listen) to my advice.
- 6) Did the hotel offer _____ (change) your room?
- 7) Children love _____ (go) to the circus.
- 8) We don't need _____ (take) an umbrella with us.
- 9) You should avoid _____ (eat) too many sweet things.
- 10) The workers finished _____ (paint) the house.

B Underline the correct option.

Most teenagers like 1) *to spend / spending* time in front of the TV, but is this a good thing? Is TV just a way of avoiding 2) *to do / doing* something more useful? Some people think that most TV programmes are not right for teenagers. 'Teenagers need 3) *to have / having* better programmes,' agrees TV producer Erica Johnson. 'Our TV company promises 4) *to make / making* educational programmes which teenagers will enjoy 5) *to watch / watching*.' Erica suggests 6) *to create / creating* a special channel for teenagers. 'Teenagers want 7) *to be / being* different, so a different channel is a good idea. TV is a great way of learning. Teenagers can learn 8) *to understand / understanding* the world through television. What do teenagers think? Emily, 13, said, 'It's a bad idea. We have enough channels already. I wouldn't like 9) *to see / seeing* one more.' Erica said, 'We are planning 10) *to show / showing* the first programme on this new channel next spring.'