

Infinitive/ -ing form

The to infinitive is used:	The -ing form is used:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to express purpose <i>She went out to buy some milk.</i> • after certain verbs (advise, agree, appear, want, decide, expect, hope, promise, refuse, etc.) <i>He promised to be back at 10 o'clock.</i> • after certain adjectives (angry, happy, lucky, glad, etc.) <i>She was glad to see him.</i> • after question words (where, how, what, who, which, but not after why) <i>Has she told you where to meet them? BUT I don't know why he left so early.</i> • after would like / would love / would prefer (to express specific preference) <i>I'd love to go for a walk. (specific preference)</i> • after nouns <i>It's a pleasure to work with you.</i> • after too / enough constructions <i>He's too short to reach the top shelf. He isn't tall enough to reach the top shelf.</i> • with it + be + adjective (+ of + object) <i>It was nice of him to remember my birthday.</i> • with 'only' to express unsatisfactory results <i>He called me only to say that he'd be late.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as a noun <i>Swimming is good for your health.</i> • after certain verbs (admit (to), avoid, consider, continue, delay, deny, enjoy, escape, excuse, fancy, finish, forgive, imagine, insist on, involve, keep (= continue), look forward to, mention, mind, miss, object to, postpone, practise, prevent, report, resist, risk, save, stand, suggest, understand, etc.) <i>He admitted (to) stealing the painting.</i> • after love, like, dislike, hate, enjoy, prefer (to express general preference) <i>He likes cooking (in general). Note: like + to infinitive = find enjoyable I like to eat a healthy breakfast.</i> • after I'm busy, it's no use, it's (no) good, it's (not) worth, what's the use of, can't help, there's no point (in), can't stand, be/get used to, be/get accustomed to, have difficulty (in), etc. <i>It's no use complaining.</i> • after 'go' for physical activities <i>They go skiing every winter.</i> • after spend / waste time <i>He wasted his time playing video games.</i> • after prepositions <i>He entered the room without knocking.</i> • after see, hear, listen, watch to express an incomplete action, an action in progress or a long action <i>I saw Kate painting the kitchen. (I saw Kate in the middle of painting. I saw part of the action in progress. I didn't wait until she had finished.) BUT see, hear, listen, watch + infinitive without to to express a complete action, something that one saw or heard from beginning to end I watched Kate paint the kitchen. It took her two hours. (I saw the whole action from beginning to end.)</i>
<p>The infinitive without to is used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after modal verbs (must, can, will, etc.) <i>You must be back at 12 o'clock.</i> • after had better / would rather <i>I'd rather have stayed in last night.</i> • after make / let / see / hear / feel + object <i>Mum let me watch TV. I made him apologise. BUT in the passive form: be made / be heard / be seen + to infinitive <i>He was made to apologise.</i></i> <p>Note: help is followed by a to infinitive or an infinitive without to. <i>She helped me (to) wash the dishes.</i></p>	<p>Note: If two infinitives are joined by 'and', the 'to' of the second infinitive can be omitted. <i>I want to eat something and have a rest.</i></p>

2 Complete the conversation between a travel agent and a customer using the infinitive or -ing form.

- A: Good morning, sir. Can I 1) *help* (help) you?
 M: Yes. I'm interested in 2) (go) on holiday somewhere in the Caribbean.
 A: OK. And when would you like 3) (travel)?
 M: I fancy 4) (take) a trip sometime in the spring.
 A: Great! And how long are you hoping to stay?
 M: About two weeks. That'll be long enough 5) (relax) and enjoy the sun.
 A: Very good, sir. I can see that there are two package deals available for the first two weeks of May, one for the Dominican Republic and the other for Turks and Caicos.
 M: Turks and Caicos sounds interesting. But will I have to 6) (get) there by boat?
 A: Not necessarily. There's an airport there. However, you may want 7) (take) a boat if you'd like want to go 8) (tour) around the islands.
 M: Sounds good. Can I 9) (book) and pay by credit card now?



3 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct infinitive or -ing form.

- 1 A: How about *going* (go) to the shops this afternoon?
 B: Great! I need *to buy* (buy) a new dress for the party.
 2 A: Costas has promised (help) me with my homework.
 B: That was nice of him (offer)!
 3 A: I'm hungry. Is there anything (eat)?
 B: There are some sandwiches in the fridge. Help yourself.
 4 A: Dan can't stand (drive) to work every morning.
 B: Then he should consider (take) the train.
 5 A: How do you know that Paola took the letter?
 B: I saw her (put) it in her bag.
 6 A: Why do you keep (look) at your watch?
 B: Because I have an appointment and I don't want (be) late.
 7 A: Is Ben in his room?
 B: Yes, I've just heard him (talk) on his mobile.
 8 A: It was really nice of Jeff and Sally (help) us move house.
 B: Yes, we are lucky (have) such good friends.

Verbs taking **to infinitive** or **-ing** form with a change in meaning

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> forget + to infinitive = not remember to do sth
<i>I'm sorry, I forgot to buy milk.</i> forget + -ing form = not remember a past event
<i>He'll never forget flying over the Alps.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> try + to infinitive = to make an effort or attempt
<i>The firemen are trying to put out the fire.</i> try + -ing form = do sth as an experiment
<i>Why don't you try adding some pepper to the sauce? It might taste better.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remember + to infinitive = not forget to do sth
<i>Remember to turn off the cooker before leaving.</i> remember + -ing form = recall a past event
<i>I don't remember staying in this hotel before.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> want + to infinitive = wish
<i>I want to spend my holidays in Spain.</i> want + -ing form = to require
<i>This room wants painting again.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> go on + to infinitive = finish doing sth and start doing sth else
<i>After finishing the report, she went on to type some letters.</i> go on + -ing form = keep on doing (sth)
<i>She went on talking for hours.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stop + to infinitive = pause temporarily
<i>She stopped to get some petrol before continuing on her journey to Leeds.</i> stop + -ing form = finish; end
<i>Stop talking, please!</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mean + to infinitive = intend to
<i>He means to find a job abroad.</i> mean + -ing form = involve
<i>Finding a job means attending many interviews.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be sorry + to infinitive = apologise for a present action
<i>I'm sorry to hear they fired him.</i> be sorry for + -ing form = apologise for an earlier action
<i>I'm sorry for being / having been unfair to you.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regret + to infinitive = feel sorry to do sth
<i>I regret to tell you that there is no money left in your account.</i> regret + -ing form = have second thoughts about sth one has already done
<i>I regret buying / having bought this dress; it doesn't look nice on me.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be afraid + to infinitive = unwilling to do sth because of fear
<i>I'm afraid to climb up the ladder. (I don't want to do it.)</i> be afraid of + -ing form = frightened; feeling fear that sth might happen
<i>She won't climb up the ladder; she is afraid of falling. (She is afraid because she might fall.)</i> |

6 Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space.

Dear Daniela,

How are you? I'm sorry I haven't emailed you since I left Brighton but I've had so much work to do. I really miss you and my old friends.

Things at my new school are a little bit different. There are many rules 1) The teachers don't allow 2) in class. We are only permitted 3) when we raise our hand or if the teacher asks us a question. On the first day, the headmaster advised us all 4) hard. In fact, he recommended 5) for at least three hours every evening! We are not allowed 6) the school at lunchtime. We are, however, encouraged 7) late after school in order 8) one of the school's clubs. Next week I'm starting chess.

Who's your teacher this year? I hope she's nice.

Send me an email when you get the chance.

Love,
Jessica



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|--------------|--|-------------|
| 1 A follow | <input checked="" type="radio"/> B to follow | C following |
| 2 A to talk | B talk | C talking |
| 3 A speaking | B to speak | C speak |
| 4 A to work | B work | C working |
| 5 A studying | B study | C to study |
| 6 A leave | B to leave | C leaving |
| 7 A staying | B stay | C to stay |
| 8 A attend | B to attend | C attending |

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Fill in the gaps with the verbs in brackets in the *infinitive* or *-ing* form.

- 1 Remember *to go* (go) to the bank.
You've got to pay the bills.
- 2 I don't remember (see)
this film before.
- 3 After he had written his first book, he went on
..... (write) four more.
- 4 She went on (talk)
even after her friend had fallen asleep.
- 5 I regret (argue) with my
sister. I should apologise.
- 6 I regret (tell) you
that you have failed your exam.
- 7 He hopes (build) a
boat and travel round the world.
- 8 Doing well on this course means
(study) very hard.
- 9 I've been trying (start)
this car for hours.
- 10 Why don't you try (put)
some petrol in the tank?
- 11 I'm afraid of (go) out alone at
night.
- 12 He's afraid (walk)
home alone at night.
- 13 She forgot (invite) one
of her best friends to the party.
- 14 I'll never forget (travel)
by plane for the first time.
- 15 On the way home he stopped
(buy) some chocolate.
- 16 He stopped (study) and
turned on the TV.
- 17 These windows are dirty. They need
(wash).
- 18 I want (speak) to Sally, please.
- 19 She's really sorry for
(shout) at you yesterday.
- 20 I'm sorry (hear) you've
been ill again.