

1.5 Verb + -ing or verb + to + infinitive

English sentence clauses often contain two consecutive verbs. After some verbs we use the -ing form, after others to + infinitive.

We use the -ing form after:

- verbs expressing emotions, e.g. enjoy, hate, like, love, (not) mind
I hate wearing a suit and a tie.
- particular verbs and verb phrases: avoid, consider, can't stand, prefer, spend time
Laura prefers texting to sending emails.

We use the to + infinitive after:

- most verbs expressing plans, decisions, intentions and willingness, e.g. hope, want, decide, choose
Tim wants to study Law.
- verbs such as: agree, can't afford, manage, need, pretend, refuse
Why do you refuse to lend me your shoes?
- verbs expressing preferences: would like, would love, would prefer
I like going out with my friends, but today I would like to stay at home.

1 Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 I don't mind _____ (get up) early.
- 2 Karen spends a lot of time _____ (chat) online.
- 3 I refuse _____ (wear) this skirt – it is too short!
- 4 I always agree _____ (help) my brother at home.
- 5 They hope _____ (meet) Sting after the concert.
- 6 I can't stand _____ (shop). It's so boring!
- 7 Peter wants _____ (be) like Steve Jobs.
- 8 Sue has decided _____ (lend) me her new dress.
- 9 Does Angela enjoy _____ (work) as a volunteer?
- 10 Ben prefers _____ (swim) to running.

2 Choose the correct option.

- 1 Karen really enjoys reading / to read poetry.
- 2 Would you like going / to go to the cinema?
- 3 Pete can't stand wearing / to wear formal clothes.
- 4 We can't avoid telling / to tell him.
- 5 I've decided going / to go abroad.
- 6 He would like spending / to spend more time with me.
- 7 I really hate getting / to get up early in the winter.
- 8 Did she manage completing / to complete her work?
- 9 We don't mind waiting / to wait for you.
- 10 I can't afford buying / to buy a new computer.

3 Complete the sentences using the prompts in brackets. Add any necessary words. Do not change the order of the words given.

- 1 I can't _____ (stand/spend) the holidays at home. I'd like to go somewhere exotic!
- 2 Why does Peter _____ (pretend/worry) Sarah? He clearly doesn't like her.
- 3 It's a good idea to _____ (avoid/depend) people that you don't know very well.
- 4 I finally _____ (manage/focus) my homework.
- 5 We _____ (hope/see) you both at the party.
- 6 Roger _____ (not/mind/talk) his ex-girlfriend. They're still very good friends.
- 7 I _____ (miss/spend/time) my best friend from primary school.
- 8 Edgar _____ (hate/listen) heavy metal music. He prefers hip-hop.

4 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use no more than five words including the word in capitals.

- 1 I don't want to wear the same clothes every day. **REFUSE**
I _____ the same clothes every day.
- 2 It's not a problem for me to get up early in the morning. **MIND**
I _____ early in the morning.
- 3 He didn't want to see me, so he stayed at home. **AVOID**
He stayed at home to _____ me.
- 4 It's my choice to study Art at university next year. **CHOSSEN**
I _____ Art at university next year.
- 5 Karen doesn't want to go to the theatre, she wants to go to the cinema. **PREFERS**
Karen doesn't want to go to the theatre, she _____ cinema.
- 6 It is really fun for me to play football with my team. **ENJOY**
I really _____ with my team.

5 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

change do go join play practise
spend tell win

Last month I decided ¹ _____ my lifestyle. Why? Well, I don't mind ² _____ you that I was a bit worried about my size and my weight. I spent too much time ³ _____ computer games and I refused ⁴ _____ any kind of exercise as well. Firstly, I considered ⁵ _____ to the gym. But this is expensive and I can't afford ⁶ _____ much money. Plus, it's a little boring and unsociable, I think. So, I chose ⁷ _____ a badminton club, instead. I wasn't very good at first, but I managed ⁸ _____ my first game yesterday so I'm really happy. Of course, I need ⁹ _____ more, but I'm really passionate about my new hobby.