

Infinitive (to + verb) – Gerund (verb + -ing)



Listen and repeat. Then act out.

You seem **to be** upset. What's the matter? Will you please stop **crying**?



I don't know what **to do**. I've lost my dog. Do you mind **helping** me to look for him?

Have you thought of **putting** an advertisement in the newspaper? It's worth **trying**.



It's no use **doing** that. My dog's **too young to read**!

The full infinitive is used:

- to express **purpose**.
He went **to buy** some bread.
- after **would love / like / prefer**.
I'd love **to see** you tonight.
- after adjectives (**angry, glad, happy, sorry, pleased, annoyed, etc.**).
I'm glad **to see** you here.
- with **too or enough**.
He's **too old to drive**.
She's clever **enough to understand** it.
- after certain verbs (**advise, agree, appear, decide, expect, forget, hope, manage, offer, promise, refuse, seem, want, etc.**).
I hope **to meet** him again.
- after question words (**where, how, what, who, which**). **Why** is not used with **to** infinitive.
I don't know **what to do**.
but Nobody knew **why** he was angry.

The bare infinitive is used:

- after modal verbs (**can, must, etc.**).
We **must leave** soon.
- after **let / make / hear / see + object**.
My dad **lets me use** his computer.

The -ing form is used:

- as a **noun**.
Smoking is dangerous.
- after **love, like, dislike, hate, enjoy, prefer**.
I love **going to the theatre**.
- after **start, begin, stop, finish**.
He **started doing** his homework at 5:00 pm.
- after **go** for physical activities.
She went **skiing** last Sunday.
- after certain verbs (**avoid, admit, confess to, deny, look forward to, mind, object to, prefer, regret, risk, spend, suggest, etc.**).
I don't mind **helping** you with the dishes.
- after the expressions: **I'm busy, it's no use, it's (no) good, it's worth, what's the use of, be used to, there's no point (in)**.
It's worth **seeing** that film.
- after **prepositions**.
He left **without taking** his coat.
- after **hear, see** to describe an incomplete action, that is to say that someone heard, saw only a part of the action.
I saw her **crossing** the street. (I saw her while she was crossing the street. I saw part of the action in progress.)
But: hear, see + bare infinitive to describe a complete action that someone heard, saw from beginning to end.
I saw her **cross** the street. (I saw the whole action from beginning to end.)

Note: • *Help* is followed by either the *to* infinitive or the bare infinitive.

She helped me (to) fix the bicycle.

• Some verbs can take a full infinitive or the *-ing* form with no difference in meaning. These verbs are: **begin, hate, like, love, prefer, start**, etc.

He likes to watch / watching the birds.

• If the subject of the verb is the same as the subject of the infinitive, then the subject of the infinitive is omitted. If, however, the subject of the verb is different from the subject of the infinitive, then an object pronoun (*me, you, him, etc.*), a name (*Helen*) or a noun (*the man*) is placed before the infinitive.

Compare: I want to be back by 10 o'clock. I want **him** to be back by 10 o'clock.

1 Write what each word is followed by: *F.I.* (full infinitive), *B.I.* (bare infinitive) or *-ing*.

1 want	+	... <i>F.I.</i> ...	8 avoid	+	.....	15 shall	+	.....
2 dislike	+	.....	9 see	+	.....	16 can	+	.....
3 would love	+	.....	10 promise	+	.....	17 start	+	.....
4 it's worth	+	.....	11 expect	+	.....	18 deny	+	.....
5 finish	+	.....	12 it's no use	+	.....	19 hate	+	.....
6 will	+	.....	13 hope	+	.....	20 must	+	.....
7 make	+	.....	14 let	+	.....			

2 Underline the correct item.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Penny loves <u>visiting</u> / visit museums. | 7 His teacher made him apologise / to apologise for his bad behaviour. |
| 2 Jane isn't used to <u>get up</u> / <u>getting up</u> early in the morning. | 8 The boys went <u>hiking</u> / <u>to hike</u> in the woods yesterday. |
| 3 Nikos agreed <u>buy</u> / <u>to buy</u> my old laptop. | 9 His parents let him <u>to go</u> / <u>go</u> to the party. |
| 4 <u>Swimming</u> / <u>To swim</u> keeps you fit. | 10 Joan spent all day <u>to shop</u> / <u>shopping</u> . |
| 5 They decided <u>selling</u> / <u>to sell</u> their old car. | 11 I'd love <u>to visit</u> / <u>visiting</u> India one day. |
| 6 I'm busy <u>to do</u> / <u>doing</u> my homework at the moment. | |

3 Fill in the gaps with a verb from the list below. Put it in the correct form.

post finish lend need take borrow

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 They managed <i>to finish</i> the project on time. | 4 Dad promised us to the circus on Sunday. |
| 2 Linda may some help with the ironing. | 5 Bruno won't let me his car. |
| 3 Could you this parcel for me, please? | 6 She refused him some money. |

4 Rephrase the following sentences as in the example:

1 He mustn't be late for school.

I don't want ... *him to be late for school* ...

2 Jim's secretary is going to attend the meeting. Jim asked her to do it.

Jim wants

3 I don't think the children should watch the late night film.

I don't want

4 Why don't you come to the concert with me?

I want

5 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.

Dear Julie,

I am writing 1) ... *to thank* ... **(thank)** you for the lovely birthday present. I was so happy 2) **(receive)** it. It was really nice of you to send something. On my birthday, I went with some friends to the Mexican restaurant in Poplar Street. If you haven't been, you really should 3) **(try)** it. After that, we went 4) **(dance)**. It was lots of fun.

My parents have agreed 5) **(pay)** for tennis lessons. They're glad 6) **(see)** that I'm so interested in a sport. I'm looking forward to 7) **(have)** to my first lesson this Saturday. I can't wait 8) **(tell)** you all about it.

Well, I must 9) **(go)** now. I hope 10) **(hear)** from you soon.

Take care,

Madeleine

6 Match column A with column B to make correct sentences as in the example:

- 1 *d* I can't stand
 2 She likes
 3 Thank you for
 4 Do you go
 5 She's looking forward
 6 Windsurfing
 7 Yes, I admit
 8 It's no use

- a is my favourite sport.
 b to going on holiday.
 c arguing with Steve. He won't change his mind.
 d hearing her cry.
 e painting in her free time.
 f helping me with my Science project.
 g cycling often?
 h breaking the window.