

1 -ing or to + infinitive?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a I just managed to avoid hitting the car in front of me.
b I just managed to avoid to hit the car in front of me.
- 2 a I want telling you a little about myself.
b I want to tell you a little about myself.

We use **to + infinitive** after the following verbs: *ask, afford, decide, deserve, help, hope, learn, offer, prepare, promise, refuse, seem, want, would like*:

Summer **seems to arrive** later and later these days.

Nowadays most people **would like to have** more money.

Learn how is also followed by **to + infinitive**:

I want to **learn how to drive** before I go to university.

After some verbs, we use **-ing**: *avoid, carry on, consider, deny, enjoy, finish, give up, imagine, involve, keep, like, mind, practise, recommend, resist, suggest*:

I really **enjoy watching** movies at the cinema. (not ~~enjoy to watch~~)

Look forward to is also followed by **-ing**:

I **look forward to hearing** your reply. (not ~~I look forward to hear your reply.~~)

We also use **-ing** after *spend money* and *spend time*:

We **spent a lot of money buying** CDs last month. We **spent \$200 buying** CDs last month.

She **spent a lot of time looking** for information on the internet. She **spent over three hours looking** for information on the internet.

☆ Note that *like* can be followed by **-ing** or **to + infinitive**.

2 Correct the mistake below.

We've spent over \$300 to buy food for the party.

We've spent



3 Fill in the gaps in the following sentences using the verb in brackets.

- 1 When I was a student, we couldn't afford new textbooks. (*buy*)
- 2 I was 13 when I first learnt how (*ice skate*)
- 3 What are you most looking forward to when your course finishes? (*do*)
- 4 'Keep the soup so that it doesn't stick to the bottom of the pan.' (*stir*)
- 5 My parents have promised me buy a car when I graduate. (*help*)
- 6 The children spent a long time the best present for their mother. (*choose*)
- 7 I've decided medicine at university. (*study*)
- 8 Our teacher suggested a barbecue on the last day of term. (*have*)