

56 Verb + infinitive or -ing form

You will know many of these verbs, and others are explained in the glossary. If you need further help, use the Word List or the **APP**.

After some verbs we use an infinitive with **to**:

agree	attempt	forget	need	pretend	seem
afford	decide	hope	offer	promise	tend
arrange	expect	manage	plan	refuse	want



He **attempted to climb** the north side of the mountain.
 They **can't afford to buy** a new car.
 I **tend to relax** in the evenings and watch TV.
 She **pretended to feel** happy, but I knew she wasn't.

After some verbs we use an **-ing form**:

admit	enjoy	give up	(not) mind	stop
avoid	fancy	imagine	practise	suggest
consider	finish	keep	risk	take up



I **avoid going** to the dentist if possible.
 I **took up swimming** to get fit.
 I **gave up smoking** ten years ago.
 I don't want to **risk losing** any money.
 We **considered moving** house, but then decided to stay here.
 Sara **doesn't mind sitting** in front of a computer all day.
 I can't **imagine spending** every day in an office.
 The boy **admitted stealing** the money.
 Do you **fancy going out** this evening?

A few verbs can be followed by an infinitive or **-ing** form with a similar meaning:

start	begin	continue
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It started raining. = *It started to rain.*

Others can have slightly different meanings:

like	love	prefer
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I like swimming. (= I enjoy swimming.)

I like to do the housework in a particular order. (= it's my habit or preference)

SPOTLIGHT **keep**

When **keep** means to continue doing something or to repeat an action many times, it is followed by an **-ing** form.

- **Keep going** until you get to the station.
- I **keep losing** my pen.
- He **keeps coughing** at night.

GLOSSARY

attempt to do sth	try to do sth, often sth difficult	risk doing sth	put sth or yourself in danger
afford to do sth	If you can afford sth/to do sth , you have enough money for it.	consider doing sth	think about sth carefully
tend to do sth	usually do or be sth	not mind doing sth	not feel unhappy or angry about sth; <i>I don't mind getting up early.</i>
pretend to do sth	try to make sb believe sth that isn't true	imagine doing sth	make a picture of sth in your mind
refuse to do sth	say you will not do sth that sb has asked you to do	avoid doing sth	try not to do sth; stop sth happening
take up doing sth	start doing sth regularly, often as a hobby	admit doing sth	say that you have done sth wrong, or that sth bad is true
give up doing sth	stop doing or having sth	fancy doing sth inf	want to do sth

1 Put the verbs in the correct part of the table below.

hope ✓ avoid			give up like	imagine manage	agree keep	offer begin	prefer continue
+ infinitive with to		+ -ing form		infinitive OR -ing form			
▶ hope							

2 Cross out the verb that cannot be used in each sentence.

- ▶ They ~~planned~~ / ~~enjoyed~~ / refused / intended to leave early.
 1 She ~~fancied~~ / avoided / kept / pretended going to that particular restaurant.
 2 He offered / admitted / agreed / arranged to go to the bank with me.
 3 We hope / tend / intend / consider to go away in the summer.
 4 I don't enjoy / mind / need / fancy staying there.
 5 Did they risk / intend / refuse / manage to spend all the money?
 6 They both gave up / considered / expected / took up swimming.

3 Underline the correct verb.

- ▶ Sam fell off his bike, but he seems / agrees to be OK.
 1 The roads will be busy so we intend / pretend to leave early.
 2 I don't mind / take up waiting for the children.
 3 He managed / attempted to find a room, but it was impossible.
 4 She kept / gave up getting a pain in her shoulder.
 5 Mark refused / offered to help me with the luggage, so I had to carry all of it.
 6 I suggested / avoided going there and they all agreed.
 7 It's a long trip, so I don't hope / expect to get there before midday.
 8 I love that motorbike, but I can't mind / risk spending all my savings on it.

4 Complete the sentences with a suitable infinitive or -ing form.

- ▶ I was very unfit so I took up jogging.
 1 I can't imagine _____ in another country.
 2 My younger brother hopes _____ very rich when he's older.
 3 My flatmates always avoid _____ housework if they can.
 4 Some people hate it, but I don't mind _____ to the dentist.
 5 Alexa promised _____ me with my Greek classes this weekend.
 6 When I told him to do some work, he pretended _____ asleep.

5 Complete the dialogues with a verb from page 118.

- ▶ Are you going shopping? ~ Yes, I want to buy a coat if I can find one.
 1 Are you going to Brazil this year? ~ No, I can't _____ to go now – it's too expensive.
 2 Do you _____ going out for a meal? ~ Yeah, that's a great idea.
 3 Why did they _____ to be German? ~ I don't know. It's obvious they were English.
 4 Do you eat dinner early in England? ~ Yes. We _____ to eat earlier than people in Spain.
 5 Have you worked on a farm all your life? ~ Yes. I can't _____ working in a factory.
 6 Are you moving house? ~ Yes, I'm _____ to get a flat in the city centre.

6 ABOUT YOU Write your answers, or ask another student.

Is there anything you:

- 1 managed to do recently that was difficult? What? _____ 4 refused to do recently? What? _____
 2 intended to do recently but didn't? What? _____ 5 forgot to do recently? What? _____
 3 agreed to do recently? What? _____ 6 either took up or gave up recently? What? _____



TEST YOURSELF