

Verb + -ing or Infinitive

GRAMMAR SUMMARY

1. Verb + -ing (feelings & preferences)

Use the -ing form after verbs and expressions that show feelings:

hate • enjoy • don't mind • imagine • finish • suggest • keep • avoid • miss • practise

I hate doing homework.

They don't mind taking the bus.

She finished reading the book.

2. Verb + infinitive (to + verb)

Use the infinitive after verbs that show future intent, plans, or decisions:

want • refuse • agree • decide • promise • forget • offer • need • hope • plan

She offered to buy the tickets.

He promised to help.

They decided to leave early.

3. Verb + -ing OR infinitive (same meaning)

After like, love, hate and prefer, both forms are possible. The meaning is the same.

Verb + -ing	Verb + infinitive
<i>They like eating ice cream.</i>	<i>They like to eat ice cream.</i>
<i>I love skiing.</i>	<i>I love to ski.</i>
<i>We prefer walking to school.</i>	<i>We prefer to walk to school.</i>

4. Stop + -ing vs stop + infinitive (different meaning!)

stop + -ing

= you stop doing that activity

I stopped eating.

(I was eating, then I stopped.)

stop + infinitive

= you stop in order to do something

I stopped to eat.

(I stopped what I was doing to eat.)

EXERCISES

Exercise 1

Write each verb in the correct column in the table below.

enjoy • decide • hate • want • finish • love • promise • imagine •
refuse • prefer • offer • don't mind

Verb + -ing only	Verb + infinitive only	Both forms

Exercise 2

Chose the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence.

1. She enjoys **to swim / swimming** at the weekend.
2. They decided **to leave / leaving** early because of the traffic.
3. I don't mind **to wait / waiting** – take your time.
4. He promised **to call / calling** me after the meeting.
5. We prefer **to travel / travelling** by train.
6. She refused **to answer / answering** the question.
7. Can you imagine **to live / living** without the internet?
8. My brother loves **to cook / cooking**.
9. He needs **to study / studying** harder for the exam.
10. They finished **to clean / cleaning** the house just before the guests arrived.

Exercise 3

Use the correct form of the verb in brackets: -ing or infinitive (to + verb).

1. He stopped _____ (smoke) three years ago.
2. She was tired, so she stopped _____ (buy) a coffee on the way home.
3. They agreed _____ (meet) at the café at noon.
4. I love _____ (listen) to music while I cook.
5. He forgot _____ (send) the email, so his boss was angry.
6. My parents don't mind _____ (help) us when we need them.
7. We hope _____ (visit) Japan next summer.
8. She suggested _____ (go) to a different restaurant.
9. The children kept _____ (ask) questions during the film.
10. He offered _____ (drive) us to the airport.

Exercise 4

Read the sentences. Write the correct meaning (A or B) next to each sentence.

A = the activity ended B = they stopped in order to do something

1. She stopped talking when the teacher came in. _____
2. He stopped to talk to an old friend on the street. _____
3. I stopped working at midnight and went straight to bed. _____
4. They stopped to look at the map because they were lost. _____
5. The driver stopped to pick up a passenger. _____
6. She stopped eating meat two years ago. _____

Exercise 5

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct form.

1. She enjoys to go to the gym every morning. → _____
2. He decided buying a new laptop. → _____
3. They finished to paint the kitchen yesterday. → _____
4. I would love meeting your family someday. → _____
5. He refused helping us with the project. → _____
6. We don't mind to wait outside. → _____

Exercise 6

Write five true sentences about yourself. Use a different verb from the box in each sentence.

love • hate • enjoy • want • hope • don't mind • prefer • decide

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____