

Hate, like, love and prefer

We can use *hate*, *like*, *love* and *prefer* with an *-ing* form or with a *to*-infinitive:

I hate to see food being thrown away.

I love going to the cinema.

I prefer listening to the news on the radio than watching it on TV.

He prefers not to wear a tie to work.

In American English, the forms with *to*-infinitive are much more common than the *-ing* form.

There is a very small difference in meaning between the two forms. The *-ing* form emphasises the action or experience. The *to*-infinitive gives more emphasis to the results of the action or event. We often use the *-ing* form to suggest enjoyment (or lack of it), and the *to*-infinitive form to express habits or preferences.

Would + hate, like, love, prefer

When we use *would* or *'d* with *hate*, *like*, *love*, *prefer*, we use the *to*-infinitive, not the *-ing* form:

We would love to hear you sing.

Not: ~~We would love hearing you sing.~~

They'd hate to cause a problem.

Not: ~~They'd hate causing a problem.~~

I'd prefer not to give you my name.

Not: ~~I'd prefer not giving you my name.~~

FILL IN THE BLANK.

1. My friends would like _____ (celebrate) the end of the course in Port Aventura.
2. Martha loves _____ (work) with children.
3. My daughter hates _____ (play) alone.
4. Little Tommy would love _____ (have) a brother.
5. The football players would prefer _____ (play) in another stadium.
6. Alan's father hates _____ (get up) early every day.
7. Susan likes _____ (go out) with her friends.
8. He _____ (like / play football). He _____ (not like / sing).
9. I would love _____ (dance) with you.
10. Joanna _____ (love / ride) horses, but she _____ (not like / learn) English.
11. We would really _____ (like / go) to the cinema tonight.
12. I _____ (not like / sail) a boat, but I _____ (like / draw) pictures.