

8 The -ing form and the infinitive

I can use the -ing form and the infinitive in different verb patterns.

The -ing form



The **-ing** form is like a noun. We often use it to talk about activities when we think about the actual process of the activity.

It can be the subject or the object of a sentence.

*My favourite sport is **swimming**.*

***Assembling** a book case is difficult.*

We use the **-ing** form after **go** to talk about sports and other activities.

*go **swimming**, go **fishing**, go **running**, go **shopping***

We use it after verbs like **love**, **like**, **enjoy**, **don't mind**, **hate**, **can't stand** to talk about how we feel about different activities.

*I **love organizing** my DVDs.*

We use the **-ing** form after the verbs **try**, **start** and **finish**.

*Can I **try doing** that?*

*When will you **finish painting** it?*

We also use it in **spend/take** time doing something.

*Oliver **spent three hours fixing** his bike.*

We use the **-ing** form after **see** and **hear** somebody or **something** when we see or hear only part of an activity in progress.

*I **heard you playing** the piano this morning when I passed your house. It sounded really nice.
(= I heard part of the process.)*

*We **saw Mike fixing** the roof. He looked very busy.
(= We saw part of the process.)*

We can use the **-ing** form after prepositions.

*This is a special bag **for carrying** water.*

*We need to find a way **of fixing** the door.*

*Mandy's good **at drawing** people.*

*He's used **to sleeping** on the floor.*

This includes many common adjective + preposition combinations such as *afraid of*, *famous for*, *fed up with*, *interested in*, *useful for* and many common verb + preposition combinations such as *apologize for*, *look forward to*, *rely on*, *succeed in*, *think about*.

*He's famous **for crossing** the Atlantic by hot air balloon.*

We use the **-ing** form after these expressions of evaluation: *it's worth*, *it's no use/good*, *there's no point*.

***There's no point asking** Ronny. He won't know.*

❖ 1 What can you see? Complete the sentences with the **-ing** forms of the verbs below.

play chess ski take photos paint
swim skip

► I can see someone painting.

1 I can see someone _____

2 I can see someone _____

3 I can see someone _____

4 I can see someone _____

5 I can see two people _____



*** 2 8.1 What can you hear? Listen and write.**



- ▶ I can hear someone kicking a ball.
- 1 I can hear someone _____ a shower.
- 2 I can hear someone _____.
- 3 I can hear someone _____.
- 4 I can hear someone _____ the guitar.
- 5 I can hear someone _____.
- 6 I can hear someone _____ a horse.

*** 3 GAME What can you remember? Work in pairs. Cover exercises 1 and 2. How many activities can you remember? Use saw and heard.**

I saw someone painting.

I heard someone kicking a ball.

*** 4 Complete the sentences with the -ing form of the verb in brackets.**

- ▶ I'm not used to getting up before six o'clock. (get)
- 1 I feel like _____ for a long walk. (go)
- 2 They went _____ last year. (camp)
- 3 I spend a lot of time _____. (read)
- 4 Her favourite pastime is _____ shells on the beach. (collect)
- 5 Jason isn't interested in _____ films. (watch)
- 6 I use these gloves for _____. (cycle)
- 7 Amy saw you _____ in the garden. (work)
- 8 She was busy _____ all morning. (cook)
- 9 Can you start _____ the washing-up? (do)
- 10 It's always worth _____ a friend for advice. (ask)

*** 5 8.2 Listen and complete the table.**



Paul likes ...	He isn't very good at ...	He doesn't like ...	He spends a lot of time ...	He's never tried ...
▶ <u>taking photos</u>	3 _____	5 _____	7 _____	9 _____
1 _____	or	or	and	or
2 _____	4 _____	6 _____	8 _____	10 _____

*** 6 GAME Work in groups. Complete the table with two true answers and one false answer in each column. Compare your answers. Can the others find the false answer?**

I like ...	I'm not very good at ...	I don't like ...	I spend a lot of time ...	I've never tried ...
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
and	or	or	and	or
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

I like meeting my friends, collecting shells on the beach and kicking a ball.

I don't think it's true that you like collecting shells on the beach!

You're right! That one's not true.

*** 7 What's important to you? What's not? Complete the phrases with the -ing form of the verbs in the box. Then put a tick (✓) or a cross (X) in the boxes.**

be do have have own spend

- ▶ having lots of friends ☐
- 1 _____ one or two good friends ☐
- 2 _____ healthy ☐
- 3 _____ well at school ☐
- 4 _____ time with your family ☐
- 5 _____ lots of possessions (DVDs, clothes, a computer, etc) ☐

*** 8 What's important to you? Order the things in exercise 7 from 1 (very important) to 6 (not important). Then discuss your answers in small groups.**

Having lots of friends is the most important thing for me, because I spend a lot of time talking to my friends and I like knowing different kinds of people.

For me, doing well at school is the most important thing because ...

The infinitive without to and with to

We use the infinitive without **to** after modal verbs. They **should talk** more.

We also use the infinitive without **to** after the verbs **make** and **let**.

Why did you **let him eat** that?

Don't **make me laugh**!

We also use the infinitive without **to** after **see** and **hear somebody** or **something** when we talk about a short action or when we see or hear all of an activity. Louise broke the plate! I **saw her drop** it.

We use the infinitive with **to** after many verbs connected with thinking and planning (like *want, would like, plan, hope, intend, decide, arrange* and *promise*).

Mary **hopes to study** engineering.

I've **arranged to meet** Andrew later.

We also use the infinitive with **to** to express purpose.

I'm going to Spain **to see** my grandfather.

He used a knife **to open** the box.

We use the infinitive with **to** with some adjectives (*crazy, delighted, difficult, easy, fascinating, funny, great, happy, impossible, nice, OK, pleased, right, sad, sorry, surprised, wonderful, wrong*).

It's **crazy to pay** so much money for a bottle of water!
I was **surprised to see** you at school today.


We can also use the adjectives **easy, difficult, impossible** with **for + someone + the infinitive with to**.

It's **difficult for me to answer** that question.

We use the infinitive with **to** after verbs like **ask, know, learn, understand** + a question word.

I'm not sure **where to put** this chair.

I know **how to fix** that.

- ✱ 9  8.3 What did you hear? Listen and complete the sentences with the infinitive of a verb from the box.

break catch close drink drop kick
open say shout take


- I heard someone drop a plate.
- 1 I heard someone _____ a window.
- 2 I heard someone _____ a photo.
- 3 I heard someone _____ a ball.
- 4 I heard someone _____ an umbrella.
- 5 I heard someone _____ a door.
- 6 I heard someone _____ 'yes'.


- ✱ 10 Circle the correct option.

- You must promise **be / to be** careful.
- 1 It's wonderful **see / to see** you again.
- 2 The medicine will make you **feel / to feel** better.
- 3 They've decided **buy / to buy** a new one.
- 4 Are you OK? I saw you **fall / to fall**.
- 5 Jack let me **borrow / to borrow** his coat.
- 6 We could **phone / to phone** Milly.
- 7 I did it **save / to save** time.
- 8 That looks impossible **open / to open**.
- 9 I don't know what **do / to do**.
- 10 It's not easy for me **speak / to speak** in public.

- ✱ 11 Complete the sentences with the infinitive of the verb in brackets with or without to.

- Can you walk on your hands? (walk)
- 1 What are you planning _____ tomorrow? (do)
- 2 Are you good at making people _____? (laugh)
- 3 How often do you use chopsticks _____ rice or noodles? (eat)
- 4 Do you let your friends _____ your books? (borrow)
- 5 Do you know how _____ pasta? (cook)
- 6 Is it ever OK _____ to someone? (lie)
- 7 Is it difficult for you _____ up in the morning? (get)

- ✱ 12  Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions in exercise 11.

- ✱ 13  GAME 'I know how to...' Work in small groups. What practical skills do you have? Use the ideas in the box.

Change/replace:

a plug/a tyre/a battery/a light bulb

Cook/make:

eggs/bread/pizza/pasta/a meal/a smoothie/ice cream

Mend/repair:

clothes/a bicycle/a computer

Clean/wash:

clothes/dishes/a car/a floor/a carpet

Jason knows how to change an electrical plug.

The infinitive with *to* or *-ing*

We use the **-ing** form after *love, like, hate, enjoy, don't mind, can't stand* and certain other verbs, including *admit, avoid, deny, fancy, finish, imagine, miss, practise, regret, risk, suggest*.

I don't regret leaving.

He avoids talking about it.

With *like, love, prefer* and *hate* we can use either a **to-infinitive** or an **-ing** form. However, **like + to** can also mean we have a habit of doing something even if we may not enjoy it.

I like to check my homework carefully.

We use the infinitive form with **to** after *want, would like, plan, hope, intend, decide, arrange, promise* and certain other verbs including *afford, agree, begin, deserve, expect, forget, learn, manage, need, offer, pretend, promise, refuse, seem, would prefer*.

I agreed to buy it.

You could offer to help her.

After the verbs *stop, try* and *remember* we can use either the **-ing** form or the infinitive form with **to**, but the meaning is different.

Let's stop looking at the map. (= We are looking at the map. I don't want to look at the map.)

Let's stop to look at the map. (= I want to stop because I want to look at the map.)

I tried to get the paint off my T-shirt. (= I couldn't get the paint off my T-shirt) (an attempt)

I tried washing my T-shirt in very hot water. (= I washed my T-shirt but it didn't have the result I wanted.) (an experiment)

I don't remember closing the door. (= Did I close it or not? I don't know.)

I didn't remember to close the door. (= I know that I didn't do it.)

*14 Choose the correct form.

► She refuses to discuss / discussing it.

- 1 I can't imagine **to live** / living there.
- 2 He's pretending **to be** / being sad.
- 3 You need to practise **to hit** / hitting the ball.
- 4 Do you fancy **to meet** / meeting at the park?
- 5 I don't intend **to take** / taking the exam.
- 6 Do you promise **to stay** / staying here?
- 7 He can't stand **to wait** / waiting for people.
- 8 Ryan has arranged **to visit** / visiting them.
- 9 I'd prefer **to go** / going by bus.

*15 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- Does Mike enjoy acting? (act)
- 1 I don't mind _____ for help. (ask)
 - 2 It's starting _____. (rain)
 - 3 I think Alice deserves _____. (win)
 - 4 He practised _____ his name. (write)
 - 5 I hate _____ late. (be)
 - 6 Did you manage _____ to her? (speak)
 - 7 We can't risk _____ now. (stop)
 - 8 They refused _____ me a reason. (give)
 - 9 Let's stop _____ about this now. We've said everything. (talk)
 - 10 You need _____ the door now. (open)
 - 11 We tried _____ the computer on and off again, but that didn't help. (switch)
 - 12 We're aiming _____ at two. (leave)

*16 Complete the text with the infinitive or *-ing* form of the verbs in brackets.

Shopping - If you want ► to go ¹ _____ (shop) then it's fascinating ² _____ (explore) the Riverside area. Expect ³ _____ (see) high prices in the shops: this isn't a cheap part of town! For a different shopping experience, spend some time ⁴ _____ (walk) around Central Market. It's not worth ⁵ _____ (go) after one o'clock, though. Most of the stalls start closing at midday. At the Crafts Centre there are shops and workshops where you can ⁶ _____ (see) people ⁷ _____ (make) ceramics and jewellery.



Transport - ⁸ _____ (travel) by underground is expensive, and you'll miss ⁹ _____ (see) many interesting sights. We suggest ¹⁰ _____ (take) the bus or the tram. The water taxis are also an excellent way of ¹¹ _____ (get) about.

Security - Avoid ¹² _____ (walk) around the city on your own late at night. Remember ¹³ _____ (keep) your identity card with you at all times.

Would you like ¹⁴ _____ (**know**) **more?** - Visit our website ¹⁵ _____ (read) about the history of this exciting city.

17



What should a visitor to your town or city see and do? Write a short guide. Use the headings from the text in exercise 16 and include some of the expressions from the box.

It's worth... There's no point...
You can see people... Spend some time...
Avoid... A good/great place to...
The best place to ... Remember ...

My city is a wonderful place to explore. The best way of seeing the main sights is to take an open-top bus tour. After that you should spend some time walking around the Old Town, where you can see people doing their everyday activities.

SHOPPING

It's worth taking a bus to the City Market, where...



18



Work in pairs. Complete the sentences with verbs in the infinitive with or without to, or the -ing form. Compare your answers with another pair.

Most people need _____,
_____ and _____ every day.

In life, you can't avoid _____,
_____ or _____.

Very few people find it easy _____,
_____ or _____.

Most people want _____,
_____ and _____.

_____, _____ and _____
are the best ways of staying happy.

We wrote, 'Most people need to eat,
to drink and to sleep every day.'

We wrote, 'Most people need to eat, to
drink and to talk to someone every day.'

Self-evaluation Rate your progress.



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