

1.5 Verb + -ing or verb + to + infinitive

English sentence clauses often contain two consecutive verbs. After some verbs we use the -ing form, after others to + infinitive.

We use the -ing form after:

- verbs expressing emotions, e.g. *enjoy, hate, like, love, (not) mind*

I hate wearing a suit and a tie.

- particular verbs and verb phrases: *avoid, consider, can't stand, prefer, spend time*

Laura prefers texting to sending emails.

We use the to + infinitive after:

- most verbs expressing plans, decisions, intentions and willingness, e.g. *hope, want, decide, choose*

Tim wants to study Law.

- verbs such as: *agree, can't afford, manage, need, pretend, refuse*

Why do you refuse to lend me your shoes?

- verbs expressing preferences: *would like, would love, would prefer*

I like going out with my friends, but today I would like to stay at home.

1. We _____ town on Saturday afternoons. We hate shopping when it's busy.
2. I _____ a burger, medium fries and a chocolate milkshake, please.
3. They usually eat in the most expensive restaurants, but we _____ it. We don't have enough money.
4. My little brother _____ that he's riding a motorbike. He makes motorbike noises and runs around a house.
5. Dad still goes running in the winter, but Mum _____ to. She won't go because it's too cold.
6. I don't know how I'll _____ to finish all this homework before school on Monday, but I'll try.

2 ★ Choose the correct forms.

- 1 Christopher doesn't mind **to pay** / **paying** for English lessons. He goes on holiday to England **every year**.
- 2 Amy avoids **to sunbathe** / **sunbathing**. She has blonde hair and **very fair skin**.
- 3 Do you want **to go** / **going** camping at the weekend? The weather forecast is **good**.
- 4 Marco and his mum choose **flying** / **to fly** when they visit their family in Italy.
- 5 Carly pretends **to be** / **being** cheerful when she's away, but I really think she misses home.
- 6 Do we **really need** to **take** / **taking** four big bags with us? We are **only going** away for three days.

3 ★★ Complete the sentences with the **-ing** form or the **to infinitive** of the verbs in capitals.

1 SHOP

I don't like **shopping** with my dad. He hates a _____ and I refuse b _____ with him.

2 SWIM

Lola loves a _____. Yesterday, she managed b _____ 500 metres. Next weekend, she hopes c _____ a full kilometre.

3 BUY

Can you afford a _____ this expensive coat?
You should consider b _____ a cheaper one.
You need to save money.

4 MEET

Simon enjoys a _____ his friends at the skate park. This weekend they've agreed b _____ at the skate shop because he wants to buy new wheels for his board.

4 ★★★ Complete the forum post with the -ing form or the to infinitive of the verbs from the box. There are two extra words.

cook eat find live miss
see shop write visit

Are you a foreigner living in Estonia?
Tell us what you think about living here
and what you miss from home.

Araya Estonia writes:

My family comes from Thailand, but we live in Tallin because my dad works for an Estonian electronics company. I like living in Estonia, but I'm not keen on the food.

I miss ¹ _____ for fresh food in the markets in Bangkok. Luckily, my mum is always busy in the kitchen. She spends a lot of time ² _____ our favourite Thai meals.

Unfortunately, she can't always manage ³ _____ the right ingredients, and we can't afford ⁴ _____ Thailand every time we do our shopping! Anyway, I'm happy to say that there are always chillies in the shops in Estonia. My dad won't consider ⁵ _____ a meal without chillies! Are

there any other Thai teenagers out there? Would you like ⁶ _____ to me and tell me what you miss about Thailand? I promise to reply.

SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

5 Complete the sentences with the words in brackets in the correct form. Do not change the order of the words. You may need to add words. Use no more than six words.

Marie's grandparents are rich – they can afford to have a flat (afford / have / flat) in the centre of Paris and a house in southern Provence.

- 1 Why _____ he / refuse / use) social media? Everyone is on Facebook except him!
- 2 Giulia _____ (miss / meet) her friend, Stefano, at the café near their secondary school. They've lost contact with each other.
- 3 Maria usually _____ (spend / lot / time / talk) on the phone.
- 4 Felix and Eva _____ (avoid / talk) politics – they prefer discussing other topics.
- 5 _____ (you / mind / open) the window for a while? It's really hot in here.
- 6 My sister _____ (not / stand / clean / window). She says it's dead boring.