

Verbs followed by infinitives and/or gerunds

The **to infinitive** is used:

- to express purpose. *He went to university to become a lawyer.* (in order to become)
- after certain verbs such as agree, appear, decide, expect, hope, plan, promise, refuse, etc. *He refused to pay the bill.*
- after certain adjectives which describe feelings/emotions (happy, glad, sorry, etc.). *She was happy to win the prize.*
- after would like / would love / would prefer, etc. to express a specific preference.
I would like to see the manager.
- after certain nouns.
What a surprise to see him there!
- after too / enough.
He's too young to have his own car.
He's clever enough to do the crossword.
He's got enough money to live on.
- with it + be + adjective (+ of + noun / pronoun).
It was generous of him to offer £1,000.
- with so + adjective + as. *Would you be so kind as to help me move the sofa?*
- with only to express an unsatisfactory result.
She came in only to find Bob had left.
- after be + the first/second, etc. / next / last / best, etc. *He was the last to come to work.*
- in the expression for + noun / pronoun + to infinitive.
For him to be so rude was unforgivable.
- in the expressions to tell you the truth, to begin with, to be honest, etc.
To be honest, I don't like him.

Note: If two infinitives are joined by and or or, the to of the second infinitive can be omitted. *I want to call Mr Jones and fax or post him a letter.*

The **infinitive without to** is used:

- after most modal verbs (can, must, will, etc.). *You can leave now if you want.*
- after had better / would rather. *I'd rather not go out tonight. I'd better stay at home.*
- after make / let / see / hear / feel + object. *They made him pay for the damage.* **BUT** in the passive be made / be heard / be seen + to infinitive. *He was made to pay for the damage.*
- know and help are followed by a to infinitive or an infinitive without to. *I've never known him (to) be so mean.* *Could you help me (to) fix the car?* **BUT** in the passive be known, be helped + to infinitive. *She was known to have worked as a teacher.*

The **-ing form** is used:

- as a noun. *Walking is good exercise.*
- after certain verbs (admit, anticipate, appreciate, avoid, consider, continue, delay, deny, discuss, enjoy, escape, excuse, fancy, finish, forgive, go (for activities), imagine, involve, keep (= continue), mention, mind, miss, object to, postpone, practise, prevent, quit, recall, recollect, report, resent, resist, risk, save, stand, suggest, tolerate, understand, etc.).
They discussed selling the company.
"Let's go jogging!" "No, I'd rather go sailing."
- after dislike, enjoy, hate, like, love, prefer to express general preference. *She likes painting.* (in general)
Note: like + to infinitive = it is considered a good idea
I like to wash my hair every day.
- after I'm busy, it's no use, it's (no) good, it's (not) worth, what's the use of, can't help, there's no point (in), can't stand, have difficulty (in), in addition to, as well as, have trouble, have a hard/difficult time.
He can't stand being treated like a slave.
He had difficulty finding his way back.
- after spend / waste (time, money, etc.).
He spends his free time digging (in) the garden.
- after prepositions. *He left the shop without paying, so he was accused of stealing.*
- after look forward to, be / get used to, be / get accustomed to, object to, admit (to), etc.
I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.
- after hear, listen, notice, see, watch to express an incomplete action, i.e. somebody saw or heard only a part of the action. *I saw Tim doing his homework.* (I saw part of the action in progress. I didn't wait until he had finished.)

BUT hear, listen, see, watch + infinitive without to express a complete action, i.e. something that somebody saw or heard from beginning to end. *I saw Tim do his homework.* It took him an hour. (I saw the whole action from beginning to end.)

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Write what each verb/phrase is followed by: *to infinitive, infinitive without to or -ing form.*

1 enjoy	+	.....-ing form.....	10 agree	+	.....
2 promise	+	.....	11 can	+	.....
3 be made	+	.....	12 would like	+	.....
4 object to	+	.....	13 would	+	.....
5 it's no use	+	.....	14 refuse	+	.....
6 can't stand	+	15 spend time	+
7 can't help	+	16 avoid	+
8 had better	+	17 be the first	+
9 resist	+	18 tolerate	+

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Fill in the correct form of the *infinitives*.

- 1 My boss expects me **to work** (work) overtime tonight.
- 2 The suspect claimed (work) at the time of the robbery.
- 3 I was sorry (hear) that she had failed the exam.
- 4 The burglars must have come in through the window as the lock seems (force).
- 5 "Robert appears (overtake) John on the last lap." "Yes, he's passed him!"
- 6 Mike was the last runner (finish) the marathon.
- 7 I'd like (book) a return ticket to London, please.
- 8 Stop pretending (eat) your food – just finish it up, please.
- 9 It was very kind of Paula (lend) me her laptop.
- 10 Leslie seems (enjoy) her new job.
- 11 Kim plans (start) her own business after she graduates.
- 12 Jane appears (get) annoyed with her neighbour now.