

# ING OR INFINITIVE?



Study English with **mpec**

## STUDY:

Some verbs can be followed by a **to-infinitive** or the **-ing form**, but with a change in meaning:  
go on, need, remember, try, mean, regret, stop, want.

A. Studying English **means speaking** without fear (mean + ing = vuol dire)

B. I didn't **mean to** offend you! (mean + to inf = intendere, avere l'intenzione di)

A. This room **needs cleaning** (need + ing = avere bisogno di, passivo, la cosa non lo sente davvero)

B. Do I **need to** call Francesco? (need + to inf = dovere, attivo, percepito dal soggetto della frase)

A. The flowers **want watering** (want + ing = ci vuole, passivo, il soggetto non lo sente davvero)

B. Suzanne **wants to** teach you! (want + to inf = volere, attivo, percepito dal soggetto della frase)

A. She **went on singing** (go on + ing = continuare a fare qualcosa)

B. She **went on to** explain the grammar (go on + inf = passare al punto successivo)

A. The baby **stopped crying**. (stop + ing = smettere di fare qualcosa)

B. The teacher **stopped to** drink some water (stop + to inf = interrompere qualcosa per fare altro)

A. I **forgot to** tell you I'm busy (forget + to inf = dimenticare di fare qualcosa)

B. Why is she here? I **forgot inviting** her! (forget + ing = non avere il ricordo della azione già svolta)

## COMPARE 2 MEANINGS:

A. Do you **remember packing** your phone? (remember + ing = avere il ricordo della azione già svolta)

B. **Remember to** buy soy milk for me. (remember + to inf = ricordarsi di fare qualcosa)

### Fill in the blanks

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1) Jeff remembers         | in Italy like it was yesterday. (live) |
| 2) Make sure you remember | some eggs. (buy)                       |
| 3) Mike stopped           | with his boss about the plan. (speak)  |
| 4) You should stop        | about it all the time. (complain)      |
| 5) He should try          | a new language. (learn)                |

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6) Have you ever tried              | fish in olive oil? (cook)       |
| 7) He apologized for                | so late. (arrive)               |
| 8) Janice stopped                   | a telephone call before she     |
| continued with her shopping. (make) |                                 |
| 9) Jason stopped                    | the piano at six because it was |
| time for dinner. (play)             |                                 |

**NEED IS A SEMI MODAL VERB, SO SOMETIMES IT IS USED AS THE MAIN VERB AND SOMETIMES AS A MODAL VERB. LET'S GIVE IT A LOOK :)**

### MODAL USE of NEED = need + bare infinitive

Used mostly in the negative form to indicate that there is no obligation or necessity to do something: **You needn't take off your shoes.**

Affirmative modal use is VERY formal and there is usually a negative word: **Nobody need think we're together.** (modals do not take 's')

The question form is not very common. It is rather formal. We don't use do/does/did, invert the subject: **Need we write this down?**

### ACTIVE USE of NEED = need + TO infinitive

Need can be a normal, active verb. In these cases, it is less formal than the modal use and it behaves exactly like all the other verbs:

Affirmative: You **need to** take off your shoes.

Negative: People **don't need to** know we are together.

Question: **Do we need to** write it down?