

When one verb follows another verb, they play a game we could call “Follow me...*like this!*” because each verb (or small group of verbs) wants the verb that follows it to be in a particular form. ... Now, there’s good news and bad news. First, the good news...

THE GOOD NEWS:

There are only 3 forms that the second verb can take



THE BAD NEWS:

You just have to learn them one-by-one

Some verbs can be followed by more than 1!

P.S., The semi-good news: just learn them as you need them! (Keep track of them in a notebook!)

Let's start exploring them, together!

Let's start by saying that when we talk about these verb patterns, we are not talking about verbs following auxiliary verbs. We are talking about the three possible forms that a verb following another non-auxiliary verb can take. These three forms are: the **infinitive with "to"** (ex., to run), the **infinitive with no "to"** (ex., run), and the **-ing form**...when possible!... (ex., running).

What did I mean by "when possible?" Well, some verbs that are called **non-progressive verbs** can **never go in the -ing form** (ex., modal verbs; you can say, "I must go," but you can't say, "~~I'm musting go~~"), while others only go in the -ing form if they are being used idiomatically (ex., the five senses; you can say, "Yes, I see the bird, right now," but you can't say, "~~Yes, I'm seeing the bird, right now~~" when you mean the sense of sight, but – idiomatically – you can say, "I'm seeing my doctor, right now," when you are talking about having an appointment).



Star has chosen some verbs that we use a lot as the first verb. We'll start learning those.

- **Like, love, hate:** these three common verbs can be followed by the -ing form if they are talking about something generic, and by the infinitive with "to" if they are talking about something specific. **CHOOSE** the right answer (pulldown menu).

1. I really love _____ pizza with pepperoni.
2. They hate _____ in meetings.
3. She likes _____ her homework on Sundays.



(Shhhh...Don't tell anyone that I told you this, but these two forms are often mixed up in everyday speech.)

- **Stop:** this verb can be followed by the –ing form to indicate the action that was stopped permanently, long term, or at least for a certain period of time; it can also be followed by the infinitive with “to” for talking about the action that is the temporary or short term goal / reason why another action was stopped. N.B., if clearly understood from the context, the action that is temporarily stopped in order to do another action can be left out of the sentence.



4. I stopped _____ social media.
5. I was on the freeway; I stopped at a rest stop _____ social media.

- **Start:** “Start” is a fun concept because it’s like lighting a match...the second that you start, the starting part is already over! The action that was started may continue, but the starting, itself, begins and ends in that second. To start, again, you have to stop! This is called a “finished action” verb, and there are lots of others (to light, to cut, to finish, to break,...). “Start” can be followed by the –ing form for actions that are permanent, long term, or even ongoing; it also can be followed by the infinitive with “to” for actions that are temporary, or that even have finished.



6. I started _____ this morning at dawn...maybe I should take a break.
7. I started _____ this morning at dawn, then at 8 AM I went to the park.

- **Remember, forget:** These two verbs act the same. They take the –ing form for actions that happened in the past compared to the moment of the narrative; they take the infinitive with “to” for actions that are happening in this period (don’t be fooled, the “this period” can be in the past, too!).

8. I remembered _____ my medicine, this morning.
9. I remember _____ my medicine every day was hard to do.



- **Try:** This verb takes the –ing form when you want to express that the action wasn't hard, or that it was an experiment; it takes the infinitive with "to" when you want to express that the action was hard to do.

10. I tried _____ English scones, and they came out pretty good!

11. I tried _____ English scones, but they came out pretty bad!



- **Mean:** This verb takes the –ing form to indicate a result, or to signify concepts/ideas/emotions; it takes the infinitive with "to" to indicate intention.

12. I mean _____ there, first, would be easier than going there, afterward.

13. I mean _____ there, first, then to my mom's, afterward.



- **Help:** This verb takes both kinds of the infinitive (with and without "to") to indicate the same thing – the subject's action helps the action of the second verb to happen (AmE prefers the infinitive with no "to"). Technically, "help" can't be followed by the –ing form...*as a verb*. Remember that the –ing form can also be a gerund (a noun); to check whether it's a noun or not, make it the subject.

14. Detergent helps _____ the dishes.



- **Can't help (but):** this special phrase indicates being compelled to do something, even if you don't want to. BrE prefers "can't help" + –ing form after it. AmE often prefers "can't help but" + the infinitive with no "to" after it.

15. Elvis Presley sang, "I can't help _____ in love with you."

Most modals take the infinitive with no "to," but let's do those in another task!

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