

Verbs taking to infinitive or -ing form with a change in meaning

- **forget + to infinitive** (= forget to do sth)
I'm sorry, I forgot to lock the car.
forget + -ing form (= forget a past event)
We'll never forget visiting Paris.
- **remember + to infinitive** (= remember to do sth) *Remember to read the instructions.*
remember + -ing form (= recall a past event)
I don't remember meeting Al before.
- **mean + to infinitive** (= intend to)
He means to move to Newcastle.
mean + -ing form (= involve)
Working harder means getting more money.
- **go on + to infinitive** (= finish doing sth and start doing sth else) *After finishing her BA, she went on to get a master's degree.*
go on + -ing form (= continue)
She went on watching TV.
- **regret + to infinitive** (= be sorry to do sth)
I regret to tell you that you have failed.
regret + -ing form (= have second thoughts about sth already done) *He regrets telling lies when he was young.*
- **would prefer + to infinitive** (specific preference) *I'd prefer to have an early night tonight.*
prefer + -ing form (in general)
I prefer reading a book to watching TV.
prefer + to infinitive + (rather) than + infinitive without to
I prefer to read a book (rather) than watch TV.
- **try + to infinitive** (= do one's best; attempt)
She tried hard to cope with her new job.
try + -ing form (= do sth as an experiment)
Try adding some more sauce to your pasta.
- **want + to infinitive** (= wish)
I want to find a better job.
want + -ing form (= sth needs to be done)
Your dress wants cleaning.
- **stop + to infinitive** (= pause temporarily)
He stopped to buy some milk on his way home.
stop + -ing form (= finish)
Stop talking to each other, please!
- **be sorry + to infinitive** (= regret)
I'm sorry to hear he has been injured.
be sorry for + -ing form (= apologise for an earlier action)
I'm sorry for misunderstanding/having misunderstood what you said.
- **hate + to infinitive** (= feel sorry that you have to ask, interrupt, etc.)
I hate to interrupt, but I must talk to you.
hate + -ing form (= feel sorry for what one is doing) *I hate making you feel uncomfortable.*
- **be afraid + to infinitive** (= the subject feels anxious about doing sth)
I'm afraid to drive over the old bridge.
be afraid of + -ing form (= the subject is afraid that what is described by the -ing form may happen)
She is afraid of breaking her leg if she jumps over the wall.

10 Put the verbs in brackets into the infinitive or -ing form.

- 1 Tom stopped *to pick up* (pick up) his dry cleaning on the way home.
- 2 If you don't stop (eat) so much chocolate, you'll make yourself ill.
- 3 Try (phone) John at the office if he's not at home.
- 4 I tried my best (finish) the test, but there just wasn't enough time.
- 5 He was promoted in 1990 and went on (become) a company director.
- 6 The band went on (play) even after the lights had gone out.
- 7 Jane was afraid (show) her school report to her parents.
- 8 I'm afraid of (lose) my way in the forest.
- 9 What do you mean (do) with all that money?
- 10 Playing a musical instrument well means (practise) for years.
- 11 I regret (tell) you that your appointment has been cancelled.
- 12 She regrets (spend) so much money on her new dress.
- 13 Do you remember (ride) a bicycle for the first time?
- 14 Remember (post) the letters on your way home.

The Infinitive / -ing form / -ing/-ed adjectives

2

11 Put the verbs in brackets into the infinitive or -ing form.

- Claire: Katie! I've been meaning 1) *to ask* (ask) you. Did you pass your driving test?
Katie: No, I'm afraid I didn't.
Claire: Oh! I'm really sorry 2) (hear) that. Did your examiner say why?
Katie: Yes. He said I didn't remember 3) (look) in my rearview mirror when I was reversing. Although I really don't remember 4) (forget) to do that!
Claire: Oh. That's a pity.
Katie: He also said that I forgot 5) (signal) that I was turning on two occasions. And that I didn't stop 6) (look) when I went through an intersection. I have to admit to those mistakes though.
Claire: Oh, dear. Are you very upset you failed?
Katie: A bit. I'm trying 7) (forget) about it.
Claire: Look, you just need some more lessons.
Katie: That's what my examiner said. He told me not to give up.
Claire: Hey, I've got an idea! Why don't you try 8) (take) lessons with my dad? He taught me to drive. He's a really good teacher.
Katie: Thanks. But my brother says he wants 9) (help) me. I'd prefer 10) (get) lessons from him.
Claire: OK. No problem. Just let me know if there's anything else I can do to help.
Katie: Thanks! I will.

12 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct infinitive or -ing form.

Dear John,

I was glad to receive your email. I didn't go to the party on Saturday night because I injured myself at football practice last week. I'm trying hard not 1) *to feel* (feel) sorry for myself, but I must admit it's difficult. I want 2) (be) on the pitch with the rest of the team – not sitting here with a broken leg! My coach was sorry 3) (hear) I had been hurt. Our team doctor told him I wouldn't be able to play again this season. The season won't end for another five months, so I'd prefer 4) (believe) that my leg will heal before then. I mean 5) (do) everything I can to get better. Our team has won all our games this year and if we continue to do so there's a good chance we will go on 6) (play) in the final. I'll never forget 7) (play) in the final last year and I'd love to experience that again!

By the way, do you want to come to my house next weekend to watch a film?

Remember 8) (bring) my CDs with you if you can!

Take care,
David

