-ing or to + infinitive?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a I just managed to avoid hitting the car in front of me.
  b I just managed to avoid to hit the car in front of me.

2 a I want telling you a little about myself.
  b I want to tell you a little about myself.

We use *to* + infinitive after the following verbs: *ask, afford, decide, deserve, help, hope, learn, offer, prepare, promise, refuse, seem, want, would like*:
Summer **seems to arrive** later and later these days.
Nowadays most people **would like to have** more money.
Learn how is also followed by *to* + infinitive:
I want to **learn how to drive** before I go to university.

After some verbs, we use *-ing*: *avoid, carry on, consider, deny, enjoy, finish, give up, imagine, involve, keep, like, mind, practise, recommend, resist, suggest*:
I really **enjoy watching** movies at the cinema. (not *enjoy to watch*)
Look forward to is also followed by *-ing*:
I **look forward to hearing** your reply. (not *I look forward to hear your reply.*)
We also use *-ing* after *spend money* and *spend time*:
We **spent a lot of money buying** CDs last month. We **spent $200 buying** CDs last month.
She **spent a lot of time looking** for information on the internet. She **spent over three hours looking** for information on the internet.
☆ Note that *like* can be followed by *-ing* or *to* + infinitive.

2 Correct the mistake below.

We've spent over $300 to buy food for the party.

We've spent ....

3 Fill in the gaps in the following sentences using the verb in brackets.

1 When I was a student, we couldn't afford .... new textbooks. (*buy*)
2 I was 13 when I first learnt how .... (*ice skate*)
3 What are you most looking forward to .... when your course finishes? (*do*)
4 'Keep .... the soup so that it doesn't stick to the bottom of the pan.' (*stir*)
5 My parents have promised .... me buy a car when I graduate. (*help*)
6 The children spent a long time .... the best present for their mother. (*choose*)
7 I've decided .... medicine at university. (*study*)
8 Our teacher suggested .... a barbecue on the last day of term. (*have*)