

# 56 Verb + infinitive or -ing form

You will know many of these verbs, and others are explained in the glossary. If you need further help, use the Word List or the [app](#).

After some verbs we use an infinitive with **to**:

agree	attempt	forget	need	pretend	seem
afford	decide	hope	offer	promise	tend
arrange	expect	manage	plan	refuse	want



He attempted to climb the north side of the mountain.

They can't afford to buy a new car.

I tend to relax in the evenings and watch TV.

She pretended to feel happy, but I knew she wasn't.

After some verbs we use an **-ing** form:

admit	enjoy	give up	(not) mind	stop
avoid	fancy	imagine	practise	suggest
consider	finish	keep	risk	take up



I avoid going to the dentist if possible.

I took up swimming to get fit.

I gave up smoking ten years ago.

I don't want to risk losing any money.

We considered moving house, but then decided to stay here.

Sara doesn't mind sitting in front of a computer all day.

I can't imagine spending every day in an office.

The boy admitted stealing the money.

Do you fancy going out this evening?

A few verbs can be followed by an infinitive or **-ing** form with a similar meaning:

start	begin	continue
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*It started raining.* = *It started to rain.*

Others can have slightly different meanings:

like	love	prefer
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*I like swimming.* (= I enjoy swimming.)

*I like to do the housework in a particular order.* (= it's my habit or preference)

## SPOTLIGHT *keep*

When **keep** means to continue doing something or to repeat an action many times, it is followed by an **-ing** form.

- *Keep going* until you get to the station.
- *I keep losing* my pen.
- *He keeps coughing* at night.

## GLOSSARY

<b>attempt to do sth</b>	try to do sth, often sth difficult	<b>risk doing sth</b>	put sth or yourself in danger
<b>afford to do sth</b>	If you <b>can afford sth/to do sth</b> , you have enough money for it.	<b>consider doing sth</b>	think about sth carefully
<b>tend to do sth</b>	usually do or be sth	<b>not mind doing sth</b>	not feel unhappy or angry about sth: <i>I don't mind getting up early.</i>
<b>pretend to do sth</b>	try to make sb believe sth that isn't true	<b>imagine doing sth</b>	make a picture of sth in your mind
<b>refuse to do sth</b>	say you will not do sth that sb has asked you to do	<b>avoid doing sth</b>	try not to do sth; stop sth happening
<b>take up doing sth</b>	start doing sth regularly, often as a hobby	<b>admit doing sth</b>	say that you have done sth wrong, or that sth bad is true
<b>give up doing sth</b>	stop doing or having sth	<b>fancy doing sth</b> <i>inf</i>	want to do sth

1 Put the verbs in the correct part of the table below.

► hope ✓ avoid	give up like	imagine manage	agree keep	offer begin	prefer continue
+ infinitive with to	+ -ing form	infinitive OR -ing form			
► <u>hope</u>					
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

2 Cross out the verb that cannot be used in each sentence.

- They planned / enjoyed / refused / intended to leave early.
- 1 She fancied / avoided / kept / pretended going to that particular restaurant.
- 2 He offered / admitted / agreed / arranged to go to the bank with me.
- 3 We hope / tend / intend / consider to go away in the summer.
- 4 I don't enjoy / mind / need / fancy staying there.
- 5 Did they risk / intend / refuse / manage to spend all the money?
- 6 They both gave up / considered / expected / took up swimming.

3 Underline the correct verb.

- Sam fell off his bike, but he seems / agrees to be OK.
- 1 The roads will be busy so we intend / pretend to leave early.
- 2 I don't mind / take up waiting for the children.
- 3 He managed / attempted to find a room, but it was impossible.
- 4 She kept / gave up getting a pain in her shoulder.
- 5 Mark refused / offered to help me with the luggage, so I had to carry all of it.
- 6 I suggested / avoided going there and they all agreed.
- 7 It's a long trip, so I don't hope / expect to get there before midday.
- 8 I love that motorbike, but I can't mind / risk spending all my savings on it.

4 Complete the sentences with a suitable infinitive or -ing form.

- I was very unfit so I took up jogging .....
- 1 I can't imagine ..... in another country.
- 2 My younger brother hopes ..... very rich when he's older.
- 3 My flatmates always avoid ..... housework if they can.
- 4 Some people hate it, but I don't mind ..... to the dentist.
- 5 Alexa promised ..... me with my Greek classes this weekend.
- 6 When I told him to do some work, he pretended ..... asleep.

5 Complete the dialogues with a verb from page 118.

- Are you going shopping? ~ Yes, I want to buy a coat if I can find one.
- 1 Are you going to Brazil this year? ~ No, I can't ..... to go now – it's too expensive.
- 2 Do you ..... going out for a meal? ~ Yeah, that's a great idea.
- 3 Why did they ..... to be German? ~ I don't know. It's obvious they were English.
- 4 Do you eat dinner early in England? ~ Yes. We ..... to eat earlier than people in Spain.
- 5 Have you worked on a farm all your life? ~ Yes. I can't ..... working in a factory.
- 6 Are you moving house? ~ Yes, I'm ..... to get a flat in the city centre.

6 ABOUT YOU Write your answers, or ask another student.

Is there anything you:

- 1 managed to do recently that was difficult? What? .....
- 2 intended to do recently but didn't? What? .....
- 3 agreed to do recently? What? .....
- 4 refused to do recently? What? .....
- 5 forgot to do recently? What? .....
- 6 either took up or gave up recently? What? .....



TEST YOURSELF