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**

It started raining.* = *It started to rain.

Others can have slightly different meanings:

like	**love**	**prefer**

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

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

▶ hope ✓ give up imagine agree offer prefer
avoid like manage keep begin continue

+ infinitive with *to*	+ *-ing* form	infinitive OR *-ing* form
▶ hope		

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS