

1.5 Verb patterns

Verb patterns

Verbs preceded by other verbs or verb phrases may follow these patterns:

- verb + to + infinitive, e.g. agree, arrange, can't afford, decide, intend, learn, manage, offer, prefer, refuse, remember, seem, tend:

I decided to leave school and find a job.

My sister agreed to help me with my homework.

- verb + object + to + infinitive, e.g. advise, allow, cause, enable, encourage, expect, force, remind, urge, warn:

Robert's mother encouraged him to study Law.

The teacher reminded us not to use our mobile phones during lessons.

- verb + object + infinitive without to, e.g. make, let:

Do his parents let him hang out with his friends? My parents used to make me do a lot of house chores.

- verb + gerund (-ing form), e.g. admit, avoid, can't help, can't stand, enjoy, fancy, imagine, keep, miss, practise, spend/waste time, stop:

I can't stand wearing a school uniform.

She recently stopped eating fast food, and she feels better already.

- verb + gerund (-ing form)/to + infinitive:

After the verbs begin, continue, hate, intend, like, love, prefer and start we can use both the -ing form and the to infinitive. The meaning stays the same or changes very slightly.

I started playing chess. I started to play chess.

He intends using the school website. He intends to use the school website.

Change in meaning

- After the verbs remember, forget, stop and try we can use both the -ing form and the to infinitive form, however the meaning of the sentence changes:

Jenny remembers locking the door. (She remembers that she locked the door.)

Jenny remembers to lock the door. (She always remembers to lock the door.)

Dad'll forget giving me the money. (He will forget that he gave me the money.)

Dad'll forget to give me the money. (He hasn't given me the money and he'll forget to do it.)

Liz stopped drinking coffee. (Liz doesn't drink coffee anymore.)

Liz stopped to drink some coffee. (Liz stopped doing something in order to drink coffee.)

I tried turning the computer off and on again, but it didn't help. (I tried this as an experiment to see if it would work.)

I tried to turn the computer off, but the shutdown command didn't work. (I made an effort to turn the computer off).

- We use feel, hear, see, watch + infinitive without to in order to say we saw the whole action from beginning to end:

I saw Mary paint a picture. (I saw Mary start on the painting, paint it and finish painting).

We use feel, hear, see, watch + -ing form when we witness only a part of the action.

I saw Mary painting a picture. (Mary was painting a picture when I saw her).

- 1 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use up to five words including the word in capitals.

1 Are you looking for volunteers? You could put a poster up in the school. **TRIED**

Have you _____ a poster in the school?

2 It's really important that you hand in your assignment on Friday. **FORGET**

You must _____ your assignment on Friday.

3 I told him that dropping Spanish was a bad idea. **ENCOURAGED**

I _____ Spanish.

4 Those boots are much too expensive for me to buy. **AFFORD**

I _____ those boots.

5 Janice doesn't go to dance classes any more. She quit two years ago. **STOPPED**

Janice _____ two years ago.

6 We watched the gardener when he planted some flowers in front of the building. They look great. **WATCHED**

We _____ some flowers in front of the building.

They look great.

7 Would John like to come to the concert on Sunday? **FANCY**

Does John _____ the concert on Sunday?

8 Jorge has been forbidden from using his dad's computer. **ALLOWED**

Jorge _____ his dad's computer.

- 2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

add admire bring do drive
eat fix learn splash wear

1 Thankfully, my sister's really practical and she managed _____ my bike for me.

2 When we arrived at the cabin, it was really dark, but luckily Sam had remembered _____ a torch.

3 When we're at the farm, my uncle sometimes lets me _____ his old van around the fields.

4 I saw some people _____ to kayak on the river and it looked really fun.

5 Of course you can use the bikes, but can you just remind everyone _____ helmets?

6 Everyone needs to wear plastic gloves to avoid _____ the cleaning liquid on their skin.

7 When we reach the top of the hill, we'll stop for a while by that wooden gate _____ the view.

8 Obviously, if you keep _____ white paint to the mix, the colour will get lighter and lighter.

9 My mum makes me _____ lots of fish because it's considered to be brain food.

10 Harry tends _____ his homework at the last minute, which is why he isn't doing well at school.

GRAMMAR

1.5

Verb patterns

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

1 Tick the correct sentences. Sometimes both are correct.

- 1 a The extension to the tram line allows me to travel all the way home without walking.
- 1 b The extension to the tram line allows me travel all the way home without walking.
- 2 a Many families can't afford sending their children to private schools.
- 2 b Many families can't afford to send their children to private schools.
- 3 a Jay likes to ask his teachers difficult questions.
- 3 b Jay likes asking his teachers difficult questions.
- 4 a My parents won't let me to miss school unless I'm really sick.
- 4 b My parents won't let me miss school unless I'm really sick.

2 ★ Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

Do you fancy going (go) to Jim's birthday party with me next Sunday?

- 1 The teacher told a joke which caused the whole class laugh.
- 2 We've arranged meet (meet) after school today to talk about the end of term party.
- 3 We feel the school should do more to encourage students recycle (recycle) their rubbish.
- 4 Please keep work (work) on Exercise 6. I'll be back in a moment.
- 5 Chloé! You spend too much time talk. Please be quiet and focus on the lesson.

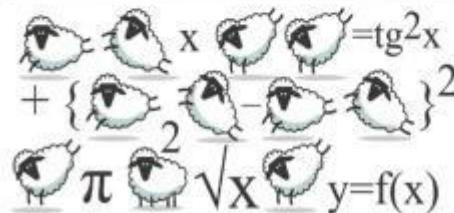
3 ★★ Match the sentences with the correct meanings a or b.

- 1 A I remember putting my wallet in my back pocket but now it's gone!
B I remembered to zip my purse safely in my bag.
a Remember something, then do it.
b Remember that you did something earlier.
- 2 A I forgot to mention that I'm vegetarian.
B I'll never forget meeting the Prime Minister.
a Forget that you need to do something.
b Forget something that happened earlier.
- 3 A Eva stopped to tie her shoelace.
B Please stop looking at your phone when I'm trying to talk to you.
a Stop doing one thing in order to do something else.
b No longer do something.
- 4 A For a better night's sleep, try drinking more water and less coffee throughout the day.
B We tried to persuade our guests to stay a little longer.
a Make an effort to do something difficult.
b Do something as an experiment to see what happens.

4 ★★★ Complete the text with the correct forms of the verbs in the box.

[forget/do hear/Mum and Dad/talk
remember/fall stop/think try/count try/get]

When I was little, I remember falling asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow most nights. I recall the comfort of ¹ hear Mum and Dad talk downstairs and how the faint sound of their voices used to send me to sleep almost immediately. These days, I find it a lot more difficult. To my mind, there is nothing more frustrating than lying in bed ² try get to sleep. Sometimes, I can't ³ stop think about school and exams. I worry that I might have ⁴ forget some homework for one of my subjects or some other trivial thing. I ⁵ try sheep once, but it didn't work. I ended up worrying about my Maths test the next day.



SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

5 Find and correct the mistakes in the sentences.

There are a number of reasons why girls tend doing better at languages than boys. to do.

- 1 Brianne clearly remembers to meet her boyfriend for the first time.
- 2 After the recent thefts, we would like to advise students not leave valuables in their lockers.
- 3 We were tired and thirsty, so we stopped having a drink at the café.
- 4 I saw the boys breaking the window then run away.
- 5 If your computer freezes, try to turn it off and on again and see if that helps.
- 6 Our teacher always makes us to switch our phones off before the lesson.

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LIVE **LIVEWORKSHEETS**