ING OR INFINITIVE?

Part 2

Study English with mpec

STUDY:

Some verbs can be followed by a to-infinitive or the -ing form, but with a change in meaning: go on, need, remember, try, mean, regret, stop, want.

A.Studying English means speaking without fear (mean + ing = vuol dire)
B.I didn't mean to offend you! (mean + to inf = intendere, avere l'intenzione di)

A. This room needs cleaning (need + ing = avere bisogno di, passivo, la cosa non lo sente davvero)
B. Do I need to call Francesco? (need + to inf = dovere, attivo, percepito dal soggetto della frase)

A. The flowers want watering (want + ing = ci vuole, passivo, il soggetto non lo sente davvero)
B. Suzanne wants to teach you! (want + to inf = volere, attivo, percepito dal soggetto della frase)

A. She went on singing (go on + ing = continuare a fare qualcosa)
B. She went on to explain the grammar (go on + inf = passare al punto successivo)

A. The baby stopped crying. (stop + ing= smettere di fare qualcosa)
B. The teacher stopped to drink some water (stop + to inf = interrompere qualcosa per fare altro)

A. I forgot to tell you I'm busy (forget +to inf = dimenticare di fare qualcosa)
B. Why is she here? I forgot inviting her! (forget + ing = non avere il ricordo della azione già svolta)

COMPARE 2 MEANINGS:

A. Do you remember packing your phone? (remember + ing = avere il ricordo della azione già svolta)
B. Remember to buy soy milk for me. (remember + to inf = ricordarsi di fare qualcosa)

Fill in the blanks

1) Jeff remembers _____ in Italy like it was yesterday. (live)
2) Make sure you remember _____ some eggs. (buy)
3) Mike stopped _____ with his boss about the plan. (speak)
4) You should stop _____ about it all the time. (complain)
5) He should try _____ a new language. (learn)
6) Have you ever tried _____ fish in olive oil? (cook)
7) He apologized for _____ so late. (arrive)
8) Janice stopped _____ a telephone call before she continued with her shopping. (make)
9) Jason stopped _____ the piano at six because it was time for dinner. (play)

NEED IS A SEMI MODAL VERB, SO SOMETIMES IT IS USED AS THE MAIN VERB AND SOMETIMES AS A MODAL VERB. LET'S GIVE IT A LOOK :)

MODAL USE of NEED = need + bare infinitive

Used mostly in the negative form to indicate that there is no obligation or necessity to do something: You needn't take off your shoes.

Affirmative modal use is VERY formal and there is usually a negative word: Nobody need think we're together.(modals do not take 's')

The question form is not very common. It is rather formal. We don't use do/does/did, invert the subject: Need we write this down?

ACTIVE USE of NEED = need + TO infinitive

Need can be a normal, active verb. In these cases, it is less formal than the modal use and it behaves exactly like all the other verbs:

Affirmative: You need to take off your shoes.

Negative: People don't need to know we are together.

Question: Do we need to write it down?