

Verbs taking to infinitive or -ing form with a change in meaning

- forget + to infinitive (= forget to do sth)
I'm sorry, I forgot to lock the car.
forget + -ing form (= forget a past event)
We'll never forget visiting Paris.
- remember + to infinitive (= remember to do sth) *Remember to read the instructions.*
remember + -ing form (= recall a past event)
I don't remember meeting Al before.
- mean + to infinitive (= intend to)
He means to move to Newcastle.
mean + -ing form (= involve)
Working harder means getting more money.
- go on + to infinitive (= finish doing sth and start doing sth else) *After finishing her BA, she went on to get a master's degree.*
go on + -ing form (= continue)
She went on watching TV.
- regret + to infinitive (= be sorry to do sth)
I regret to tell you that you have failed.
regret + -ing form (= have second thoughts about sth already done) *He regrets telling lies when he was young.*
- would prefer + to infinitive (specific preference) *I'd prefer to have an early night tonight.*
prefer + -ing form (in general)
I prefer reading a book to watching TV.
prefer + to infinitive + (rather) than + infinitive without to
I prefer to read a book (rather) than watch TV.
- try + to infinitive (= do one's best; attempt)
She tried hard to cope with her new job.
try + -ing form (= do sth as an experiment)
Try adding some more sauce to your pasta.
- want + to infinitive (= wish)
I want to find a better job.
want + -ing form (= sth needs to be done)
Your dress wants cleaning.
- stop + to infinitive (= pause temporarily)
He stopped to buy some milk on his way home.
stop + -ing form (= finish)
Stop talking to each other, please!
- be sorry + to infinitive (= regret)
I'm sorry to hear he has been injured.
be sorry for + -ing form (= apologise for an earlier action)
I'm sorry for misunderstanding/having misunderstood what you said.
- hate + to infinitive (= feel sorry that you have to ask, interrupt, etc.)
I hate to interrupt, but I must talk to you.
hate + -ing form (= feel sorry for what one is doing) *I hate making you feel uncomfortable.*
- be afraid + to infinitive (= the subject feels anxious about doing sth)
I'm afraid to drive over the old bridge.
be afraid of + -ing form (= the subject is afraid that what is described by the -ing form may happen)
She is afraid of breaking her leg if she jumps over the wall.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the infinitive or -ing form.

- Tom stopped **to pick up** (pick up) his dry cleaning on the way home.
- If you don't stop (eat) so much chocolate, you'll make yourself ill.
- Try (phone) John at the office if he's not at home.
- I tried my best (finish) the test, but there just wasn't enough time.
- He was promoted in 1990 and went on (become) a company director.
- The band went on (play) even after the lights had gone out.
- Jane was afraid (show) her school report to her parents.
- I'm afraid of (lose) my way in the forest.
- What do you mean (do) with all that money?
- Playing a musical instrument well means (practise) for years.
- I regret (tell) you that your appointment has been cancelled.
- She regrets (spend) so much money on her new dress.
- Do you remember (ride) a bicycle for the first time?
- Remember (post) the letters on your way home.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the *infinitive* or *-ing* form.

Claire: Katie! I've been meaning 1) ... *to ask* ... (ask) you. Did you pass your driving test?

Katie: No, I'm afraid I didn't.

Claire: Oh! I'm really sorry 2) ... (hear) that. Did your examiner say why?

Katie: Yes. He said I didn't remember 3) ... (look) in my rearview mirror when I was reversing. Although I really don't remember 4) ... (forget) to do that!

Claire: Oh. That's a pity.

Katie: He also said that I forgot 5) ... (signal) that I was turning on two occasions. And that I didn't stop 6) ... (look) when I went through an intersection. I have to admit to those mistakes though.

Claire: Oh, dear. Are you very upset you failed?

Katie: A bit. I'm trying 7) ... (forget) about it.

Claire: Look, you just need some more lessons.

Katie: That's what my examiner said. He told me not to give up.

Claire: Hey, I've got an idea! Why don't you try 8) ... (take) lessons with my dad? He taught me to drive. He's a really good teacher.

Katie: Thanks. But my brother says he wants 9) ... (help) me. I'd prefer 10) ... (get) lessons from him.

Claire: OK. No problem. Just let me know if there's anything else I can do to help.

Katie: Thanks! I will.