● -ing form or infinitive / prefer, would rather, had better / infinitives of purpose

verb/noun/adjective phrase + -ing form

Some verb, noun and adjective phrases are usually followed by the *-ing* form.
✓ *I've finished **writing** my essay.*
These include:

admit	delay	dislike	fancy	involve	miss	resist
appreciate	deny	enjoy	feel like	keep (on)	postpone	risk
avoid	detest	escape	finish	mention	practise	suggest
can't help	discuss	face	give up	mind	put off	understand

Watch out!

- Some of the verbs, nouns and adjectives in the list above can also be followed by an object before the *-ing* form.
  ✓ *I can't stand **people** cheating in exams.*
- When we put a verb after a preposition, we almost always use an *-ing* form.
  ✓ *I'm interested **in hearing** more about that course.*

verb/noun/adjective phrase + full infinitive

Some verb, noun and adjective phrases are usually followed by the full infinitive.
✓ *Your answer appears **to be** wrong.*
These include:

able	arrange	choose	fail	manage	prepare	seem	would like
afford	ask	decide	happen	offer	pretend	tend	
agree	attempt	encourage	help	plan	promise	want	
appear	beg	expect	hope	pleased	refuse	wish	

Watch out!

- Some of the verbs, nouns and adjectives in the list above can also be followed by an object before the full infinitive.
  ✓ *I didn't want to take the exam.*
  ✓ *My mum didn't want **me** to take the exam.*

verb + bare infinitive

Some verbs can be followed by an object + the bare infinitive.
✓ *You never let me **say** the answer.*
These include:

feel	hear	let	make	notice	see	watch

Watch out!

- The verbs *feel, hear, notice, see* and *watch* can also be followed by the *-ing* form.
  We often use the bare infinitive for a completed action (from start to finish).
  We often use the *-ing* form for an action in progress at the time.
  ✓ *I heard Miss Jenkins **tell** Julie not to do that.* (= I heard all of it.)
  ✓ *I heard Miss Jenkins **telling** Julie not to do that.* (= I heard part of it.)
- In the passive, *hear, make* and *see* are followed by the full infinitive.
  ✓ Active: *The teacher **made** me **stand** in the corner.*
  ✓ Passive: *I **was made to stand** in the corner.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

verb + full infinitive or -ing form with little or no change in meaning

Some verbs can be followed by the full infinitive or the *-ing* form with little or no change in meaning.

✓ *We continued **to do** experiments in the lab all afternoon.*
✓ *We continued **doing** experiments in the lab all afternoon.*

These include:

begin	can't bear/stand	continue	hate	intend	love	prefer	start

verb + full infinitive or -ing form with a change in meaning

Some verbs can be followed by both the full infinitive and the *-ing* form. The choice depends on the meaning.

✓ *I **remember** teachers at my school **hitting** children when they were naughty!*
✓ *Did you **remember to do** your homework?*

These verbs include:

consider	learn	remember
forget	like	stop
go on	mean	teach
imagine	regret	try

See page 196 in the Reference Section for a full list of verbs and definitions.

prefer, would rather, had better

Form	Use	Example
prefer + noun/*-ing* + *to* + noun/*-ing*	expressing general preference	*I **prefer** biology **to** history.* *I **prefer** read**ing** English texts **to** speak**ing** in English.*
would prefer + full infinitive + *rather than* (+ bare/full infinitive)	expressing specific preference (on this occasion)	*I'**d prefer to have** the lesson on Wednesday **rather than** ([**to**] **have** it) on Tuesday, if that's possible.*
would rather + bare infinitive + *than* (+ bare infinitive)	expressing general or specific preference	*I'**d rather have** the lesson on Wednesday **than** (**have** it) on Tuesday, if that's possible.*
would rather + sb + past simple/ past continuous	expressing general or specific preference (about someone else)	*I'**d rather you didn't sit** next to Brian.*
had better + bare infinitive	giving advice	*You'**d better ask** your parents if you can come on the school trip.*

Watch out!

- We don't usually say *I don't prefer…* . We use *I prefer not to…* .
  ✓ *I **prefer not to** have music on when I'm studying.*

infinitives of purpose

When we want to talk about someone's purpose (the reason they do something), we can use:

the full infinitive	*I went to university **to avoid** getting a job!*
in order + full infinitive	*I went to university **in order to avoid** getting a job!*
so as + full infinitive	*I went to university **so as to avoid** getting a job!*

Watch out!

- We can also express the same idea using *so (that)*.
  ✓ *I went to university **so (that) I could avoid** getting a job!*
- With a negative purpose we don't normally use the full infinitive on its own.
  ✓ *I went to university **in order not to get** a job!*
  ✓ *I went to university **so as not to get** a job!*
  ✗ ~~*I went to university **not to get** a job!*~~

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Circle the correct word or phrase.

1 I really don't feel like **going / to go** out tonight. Do you?
2 Everyone expected his business **failing / to fail** within the first few months.
3 What would you like **doing / to do** this evening?
4 We discussed **turning / to turn** the attic into a spare bedroom with the architect.
5 She wasn't able **speaking / to speak** very clearly after her accident.
6 Do you mind **moving / to move** your car, please? You're blocking the road.
7 They're going to postpone **making / to make** a decision until next month.
8 Are you planning **of getting / to get** a new DVD player?
9 Are you thinking **of getting / to get** a PlayStation?
10 I'm very pleased **telling / to tell** you that you've passed!
11 Sarah's offered **putting / to put** us up for the weekend.
12 I'm really looking forward **to going / to go** on the cruise.

B Complete using the correct form (*-ing* form or full infinitive) of the verb in brackets. You may need to use the passive voice.

1 I'll never forgive June for ..... (**lie**) to me like that.
2 Daniel's not very good at ..... (**make**) friends.
3 I can't resist ..... (**buy**) things when they're in the sales.
4 We've got to encourage students ..... (**study**), not blame them for not studying.
5 I don't know how you managed ..... (**persuade**) the bank manager to lend you so much money!
6 Does Jessica dislike ..... (**walk**) so much that she's not going to come with us?
7 Do you deny ..... (**steal**) the money? Yes or no?
8 The kids were pretending ..... (**be**) asleep but they didn't fool me for a second.
9 I refuse ..... (**accept**) that there's no alternative.
10 No one understands how Jill can afford ..... (**go**) on so many holidays each year.
11 He only just escaped ..... (**send**) to prison. Next time, the judge won't be so forgiving.
12 He expected ..... (**give**) a brand new computer for Christmas, but all he got was a second-hand watch!

C Read the text in Exercise D and decide whether each gap should be filled with the *-ing* form, a bare infinitive or a full infinitive. Write *ing*, *BI* or *FI* for each gap.

1 .....
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....
7 .....
8 .....
9 .....
10 .....
11 .....
12 .....
13 .....
14 .....
15 .....
16 .....
17 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Complete using the correct form (*-ing* form, bare infinitive or full infinitive) of the verbs in the box. Use each verb only once.

achieve • be • behave • come • do • hope • improve • learn • listen make • play • sit down • take • tell • try • use • work

Report: William Watson

William Watson sometimes seems to be afraid of (1) ..... hard. He can't help (2) ..... to avoid (3) ..... anything that involves (4) ..... his brain, particularly on Friday afternoons. He seems to detest (5) ..... life seriously, and pretends he isn't capable of (6) ..... anything of worth. This is unfortunate as, with a little more effort, William could succeed in (7) ..... great progress.

However, at present he frequently just wants (8) ..... the fool. He enjoys (9) ..... jokes. Presumably, he imagines this (10) ..... the best way to make friends, but in fact he often just ends up preventing the other students from (11) ..... . He has promised on several occasions (12) ..... his behaviour in class, but then he just keeps on (13) ..... in exactly the same way. Recently, I have had to beg him (14) ..... and be quiet in the classroom, but it's difficult to know how to make him (15) ..... to his senses. He just doesn't seem interested in (16) ..... to my opinion. I'm tempted to give up even (17) ..... that he might improve. Having said that though, Mr Watson is an extremely good maths teacher!

Julie Cross – 5A

E For each pair of sentences, put a tick (✓) if both sentences mean the same thing. Put a cross (✗) if they have different meanings.

1 a I can't bear being tickled!
  b I can't bear to be tickled! .....

2 a My boss went on saying that he was very proud of all of us.
  b My boss went on to say that he was very proud of all of us. .....

3 a Have you stopped having lunch yet?
  b Have you stopped to have lunch yet? .....

4 a Have you started having lunch yet?
  b Have you started to have lunch yet? .....

5 a They continued climbing the mountain
  b They continued to climb the mountain. .....

6 a We all saw the reporter interviewing the witness.
  b We all saw the reporter interview the witness. .....

7 a I love playing practical jokes on my younger brother.
  b I love to play practical jokes on my younger brother. .....

8 a Why don't you try holding your breath for a minute or two?
  b Why don't you try to hold your breath for a minute or two? .....

9 a I hate being cheated by taxi drivers.
  b I hate to be cheated by taxi drivers. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

F Complete each second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words in each gap.

1 I should have taken my medicine this morning but I didn't remember. **forgot**
I ..... my medicine this morning.

2 I'll always remember the time when I went up Mont Blanc. **never**
I'll ..... Mont Blanc.

3 I must hang up the washing later. **remember**
I ..... up the washing later.

4 Darren thinks that wearing a suit to work is appropriate. **likes**
Darren ..... a suit to work.

5 Jackie wishes she hadn't said that to Allie. **regrets**
Jackie ..... that to Allie.

6 I'm sorry but your credit card has been cancelled by the bank. **regret**
I ..... your credit card has been cancelled by the bank.

7 Crashing the car wasn't my intention, you know! **mean**
I ..... the car, you know!

8 If I take that job, I'll have to do a lot more travelling. **mean**
Taking that job ..... to do a lot more travelling.

9 Jim's mum made him tidy his room before he could go and play in the park. **made**
Jim ..... his room before he could go and play in the park.

10 I don't suppose you watched that film last night on BBC2, did you? **happen**
You ..... that film last night on BBC2, did you?

11 People often think that learning Latin is a waste of time. **considered**
Learning Latin ..... a waste of time.

G Each of the words or phrases in bold is incorrect. Rewrite them correctly.

1 I generally prefer coffee **from** tea. .....
2 Do you prefer watching a DVD at home to **go** to the cinema? .....
3 I **had** prefer to meet you a bit later, if that's all right with you. .....
4 He'd **prefer** not have to get up so early tomorrow, but he will if he has to. .....
5 I'd rather you **write** your essay in a notebook, to be honest. .....
6 Would you prefer to get a pizza rather **from** go out tonight? .....
7 You **would** better see a doctor if you're not feeling well. .....
8 I **had** rather be poor and happy than rich and lonely. .....
9 I'd prefer **having** an early night tonight, if that's okay with you. .....
10 She'd **rather** start revising if she wants to do well in the exam next week. .....
11 Shona prefers **to not** wear make-up to work. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

H Write one word in each gap.

1 I prefer pop music ..... rock, to be honest.
2 I would prefer to go to the concert tomorrow ..... than on Saturday.
3 I ..... playing the piano on my own to performing.
4 I'd rather ..... to that jazz club than a nightclub.
5 I'd ..... you didn't practise playing the trumpet while I'm trying to study.
6 You'd ..... get tickets soon as they're running out.
7 We queued up early in ..... to get good seats.
8 We waited for hours so ..... not to miss the VIPs arriving.
9 I called the theatre ..... find out what time the concert started.
10 I actually prefer ..... to listen to music through speakers; it sounds so much better through headphones.
11 Don't you think we ..... better turn the music down a bit?

I Choose the correct answer.

Approaches to learning

People appear (**1**) ..... in different ways. Some people expect (**2**) ..... mistakes in their studies and are capable of (**3**) ..... from their mistakes. They don't mind (**4**) ..... by their teacher and indeed often ask (**5**) ..... corrected.
Others, however, dislike (**6**) ..... mistakes. They try to avoid (**7**) ..... anything which they might do badly. They would rather (**8**) ..... something in small steps and be sure they have got it right (**9**) ..... attempt to do a task based on a subject they don't feel they have finished (**10**) ..... yet.
Both ways of learning seem (**11**) ..... equally valid, but a combination of the two may be the best solution. In (**12**) ..... to learn effectively, students have to remember (**13**) ..... risks sometimes. But they also have to feel comfortable and secure with what they're doing so (**14**) ..... not to become demotivated. All students should at least think about (**15**) ..... the way that they approach learning.

1	A learning	B to learn	C learn	D having learnt
2	A making	B to make	C make	D having made
3	A benefiting	B to benefit	C benefit	D to have benefited
4	A correcting	B being corrected	C to correct	D to be corrected
5	A being	B be	C to have been	D to be
6	A making	B to make	C to be making	D make
7	A doing	B to do	C having done	D to have done
8	A to perfect	B perfecting	C perfect	D be perfected
9	A to	B from	C that	D than
10	A explore	B to explore	C exploring	D being explored
11	A that	B to be	C as	D being
12	A desire	B demand	C need	D order
13	A to take	B taking	C to have taken	D having taken
14	A that	B much	C as	D many
15	A to question	B questioning	C question	D to be questioned

LIVEWORKSHEETS