

revise the basics: verb + infinitive or -ing form

Some verbs are followed by the infinitives of other verbs. Example: *want*.

I want to play in goal. (NOT *I want playing in goal*)

Some verbs are followed by the -ing forms of other verbs. Example: *enjoy*.

I enjoy playing in goal. (NOT *I enjoy to play in goal*)

(For spelling of -ing forms, see page 16.)

DO IT YOURSELF Ten of these verbs are followed by infinitives and six are followed by -ing forms. Do you know which? Check in a good dictionary if necessary.

decide	expect	finish	give up	hope	keep (on)	learn	manage	mind	need
offer	practise	promise	seem	spend (time)	would like				

- + INFINITIVE:
 + -ING FORM:
- Put in the correct forms of the verbs.
- We expect from Sally soon. (*hear*)
 - I'll never learn properly. (*spell*)
 - I promise to you every week. (*write*)
 - I failed my driving test, because I didn't practise when I was in trouble. (*help*)
 - Your sister seems very upset. (*be*)
 - I've given up again. (*smoke*)
 - He spends ages on the phone. (*talk*)
 - When are you going to finish ? (*study*)
 - After 20 minutes I managed a taxi. (*find*)
 - I would like the manager, please. (*see*)
 - Would you mind the bread? (*pass*)
 - Do you enjoy that rubbish on TV? (*watch*)
 - Nobody offered when I was in trouble. (*help*)
 - Why does Caroline keep to herself? (*talk*)
 - We've decided at home next weekend. (*stay*)
 - I need to you for a few minutes. (*talk*)

After some verbs, we can use both infinitives and -ing forms, often with little or no difference of meaning.
I like walking / to walk in the mountains. (BUT NOT *I would like walking ...*)

DO IT YOURSELF Which is correct - A, B or both? Check in a good dictionary.

- A I'm going to stop to work at 65. B I'm going to stop working at 65.
- A I started to play the guitar when I was six. B I started playing the guitar when I was six.
 - A Ann loves to ride horses. B Ann loves riding horses.
 - A I have to go now. B I have going now.
 - A It began to rain on Monday afternoon. B It began raining on Monday afternoon.
 - A Would you mind to help me? B Would you mind helping me?
 - A Would you like to see my holiday photos? B Would you like seeing my holiday photos?
 - A We can't continue to lose money like this. B We can't continue losing money like this.
 - A Do you like to cook? B Do you like cooking?
 - A I hate to go to the dentist. B I hate going to the dentist.
 - A You had better go home now. B You had better going home now.

118 INFINITIVES AND -ING FORMS

revise the basics: preposition + -ing form

We use -ing forms after prepositions.

You can only live for a few days without drinking. (NOT ... without to drink)

Teachers need to be good at listening. I'm thinking of changing my job. (NOT I'm thinking to change my job.)

Change the sentences, using prepositions and -ing forms.

► I'm thinking that I might get married. (*thinking of*)

..... the idea of getting married.

- I'm thinking that I might go to Australia. (*thinking of*)
 - Working with children interests me. (*interested in*)
 - I listen to her all day and I'm tired of it. (*tired of*)
 - She paints well. (*good at*)
 - I'm not a good listener. (*bad at*)
 - It was very kind of you to help me. (*Thank you for*)
 - I stayed in bed. I didn't go to work. (*instead of*)
 - You can't live if you don't eat. (*without*)
 - We said we might have a party. (*talk about*)
 - He passed the exam although he did no work. (*in spite of*)
- Write some sentences about yourself using prepositions and -ing forms.
- I'm thinking of
 - I've often thought of
 - I've never thought of
 - I'm quite good at
 - I'm not very good at
 - I'm bad at
 - I'm interested in
 - I'm not interested in
 - I couldn't live without
 - I could easily live without



'This one's for not asking, and this one's for not telling.'

In some answers, both contracted forms (for example *I'm, don't*) and full forms (for example *I am, do not*) are possible. Normally both are correct.

INFINITIVES AND -ING FORMS 119

more about verb + infinitive or -ing form

After these verbs, we use the **infinitives of other verbs**:

agree dare fail happen plan prepare pretend refuse wish

We all agreed to meet after the match. If you happen to see John, give him my best wishes.

1 Rewrite the sentences.

- ▶ We said we would wait for a few days. (*agree*) *We agreed to wait for a few days.*
- 1 She was afraid to say anything. (*not dare*)
- 2 Columbus did not manage to reach India. (*fail*)
- 3 I saw Annie by chance while I was out shopping. (*happen*)
- 4 They are going to build two new hospitals here next year. (*plan*)
- 5 I'm getting ready to leave the country. (*prepare*)
- 6 He said he was rich, but it wasn't true. (*pretend*)
- 7 My uncle said he wouldn't lend me any money. (*refuse*)
- 8 I would like to see the manager. (*wish*)

After these verbs, we use the **-ing forms of other verbs**:

avoid can't face can't help can't stand deny feel like imagine miss postpone
put off risk succeed in suggest think of

*I can't face telling the boss that I'm leaving. Do you feel like going out tonight?
He's a bit strange, but you can't help liking him. Imagine being able to read minds!
I succeeded in annoying everybody. (NOT I succeeded to annoy ...)
The doctor suggested taking a break from work. (NOT ... suggested to take ...)
We're thinking of moving to Scotland. (NOT We're thinking to move ...)*

2 Complete the sentences with verbs from the box. Use -ing forms.

ask be cook go to sleep listen to lose make pass plan
see spend study wake up work

- 1 I don't feel like this evening. Let's get a takeaway.
- 2 I just can't help in lectures.
- 3 Imagine married to her!
- 4 I'll miss with you when I change my job.
- 5 Don't put off the doctor. It could be something serious.
- 6 My brother succeeded in his driving test at the eighth attempt.
- 7 Try to avoid the whole house when you come in tonight, can you?
- 8 If you put your money in John's business, you'll risk everything.
- 9 Stay off the motorway and you'll avoid hours stuck in traffic.
- 10 Can you talk to Patrick? I just can't face his problems again.
- 11 I asked Peter for some advice, and he suggested you.
- 12 I'm thinking of Japanese.
- 13 All three men denied to rob the bank.
- 14 We'll postpone a decision until we know what Margaret thinks.

- 3 1 You use scales to weigh things.
2 You use a saucepan to boil things.
3 You use a frying pan to fry things.
4 You use a bowl to mix things.
5 You use a knife to cut things.
6 You use an oven to bake things.

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- 1 + INFINITIVE: decide, expect, hope, learn, manage, need, offer, promise, seem, would like
+ -ING FORM: finish, give up, keep (on), mind, practise, spend (time)
- 2 1 to hear 2 to spell 3 to write 4 driving
5 to be 6 smoking 7 talking 8 studying
9 to find 10 to see 11 passing 12 watching
13 to help 14 talking 15 to stay 16 to talk
- 3 1 B 2 Both. 3 A 4 Both. 5 B 6 A
7 Both. 8 Both. 9 Both. 10 A

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- 1 1 I'm thinking of going to Australia.
2 I'm interested in working with children.
3 I'm tired of listening to her.
4 She's good at painting.
5 I'm bad at listening.
6 Thank you for helping me.
7 I stayed in bed instead of going to work.
8 You can't live without eating.
9 We talked about having a party.
10 He passed the exam in spite of doing no work.

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- 1 1 to be working 2 be repaired 3 to go
4 to have seen 5 be having 6 to listen
7 to be chosen 8 not to be 9 have told
10 to be interrupted
- 2 1 She seems to /could / may / must be drinking.
2 She seems to /could / may / must be driving.
3 She seems to /could / may / must be playing tennis.
4 She seems to /could / may / must be washing.
5 She seems to /could / may / must be (tele)phoning.
6 She seems to /could / may / must be brushing her hair.
7 She seems to /could / may / must be reading.

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- 1 1 I'm glad to have met you.
2 I was sorry to have disturbed him.
3 I expect to have passed all my exams by June.
4 You seem to have made a mistake.

- 5 I'm happy to have had a chance to talk to you.
6 I was disappointed to have missed the party.
7 She seems to have got lost.
8 She was pleased to have found the house.

- 2 1 I would like to have seen his face when he realised what had happened.
2 He meant to have finished all his work by three o'clock.
3 We were to have spent a week skiing.
4 It was to have been the happiest week of my life.
5 She meant to have said goodbye to everybody before she left.
6 I would like to have lived in the seventeenth century.
7 He was to have played in the Cup Final.

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- 1 1 'Well, I'm starting to.'
2 'If you'd like to.'
3 'I'll try to, but I can't promise.'
4 'Sorry, I forgot to.'
5 'No, but I used to.'
6 'He seems to.'
7 'I don't really want to – it's too cold.' or 'I'd like to, but I'm working late.'
8 'Yes, she expects to.'
9 'We'd love to.'
10 'I intend to. They make far too much noise.'
11 'I'd like to, but I'm working late.' or 'I don't really want to – it's too cold.'
12 'We don't need to – there's always plenty of room.'
13 but we can't afford to.

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- 1 1 Drinking 2 paying 3 hearing 4 lying
5 skiing; climbing 6 Learning 7 saying
8 Forgetting 9 Watching 10 Answering; typing
- 3 1 Do you mind me giving you some advice?
2 I don't appreciate you shouting at me.
3. I couldn't understand Toby wanting to pay for everybody.
4 What's the use of them asking all these questions?
5 The delay was caused by Peter needing to see a doctor.
6 I was astonished at you expecting us to give you a room.
7 The holiday was ruined by Ann having to go home early.
8 She can't stand me telling her what to do.

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- 1 1 She didn't dare to say anything.
2 Columbus failed to reach India.
3 I happened to see Annie when I was out shopping.
4 They're planning to build two new hospitals here next year.
5 I'm preparing to leave the country.
6 He pretended to be rich.
7 My uncle refused to lend me any money.
8 I wish to see the manager.
- 2 1 cooking 2 going to sleep 3 being
4 working 5 seeing 6 passing 7 waking
8 losing 9 spending 10 listening to
11 asking 12 studying 13 planning
14 making

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- 1 1 You can go fishing. 2 You can go swimming.
3 You can go sailing. 4 You can go skiing.
5 You can go skating. 6 You can go riding.

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- 1 Things people did: *-ing* form.
Things people are/were supposed to do: infinitive.
1 going 2 to write 3 changing 4 to pay
5 to announce
- 2 Change: infinitive.
Continuation: *-ing* form.
1 running 2 to talk 3 to study 4 playing
- 3 Activity stops: *-ing* form.
Reason for stopping: infinitive.
1 seeing 2 to think 3 talking 4 to have
- 4 after *would*
1 A 2 A, B 3 B 4 A, B

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- 5 When there is no object: *-ing* form.
When there is an object: infinitive.
1 to talk 2 parking 3 eating and drinking
4 to stay; to work
- 6 Action going on: object + *-ing* form.
Completed action: object + infinitive without *to*.
1 digging 2 running 3 take 4 explode.
5 climbing 6 playing
- 7 1 meeting 2 to post 3 not visiting
4 to talk 5 learning 6 to make 7 visiting
8 watching / to watch 9 to spend

- 10 to come. 11 waiting 12 break
13 running 14 to get 15 working 16 to tell

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- 1 (possible answers)
1 Her boss wants her to work harder.
2 Her daughter wants her to buy her a car.
3 Her husband wants her to cook supper.
4 Her mother wants her to leave her husband.
5 Her son wants her to buy him some new clothes.
6 The butcher wants her to pay his bill.
7 The dog wants her to take him for a walk.
8 The government wants her to pay taxes.
9 The priest wants her to go to church.
(Other answers are possible.)
- 2 1 They didn't allow us to look at the house.
2 I asked Jake to be more careful.
3 She encouraged me to try the exam.
4 I expect him to come tomorrow.
5 I left him to solve the problem.
6 Did you mean me to pay?
7 The captain ordered the men to attack.
8 I reminded Sue to buy coffee.
9 She taught me to cook.
10 I would prefer you not to tell anybody.

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- 3 1 Her parents made her do the washing up.
2 Her parents made her clean up her room.
3 Her parents let her read what she liked.
4 Her parents made her iron her own clothes.
5 Her parents made her do her homework.
6 Her parents let her drink beer.
7 Her parents made her go to church.
8 Her parents let her have parties.
9 Her parents let her choose her own school.
- 6 you to serve

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- 1 fine, lazy, unusual, well
- 2 1 We were glad to get home.
2 Are you ready to go?
3 We were lucky to get tickets.
4 Lucy was surprised to get a letter from Pete.
5 I was shocked to hear about your accident.
6 I'll be happy to help you.
7 Are you willing to work at weekends?
8 You were right to ask for my advice.
9 I was wrong to believe what you said.
10 I'm sorry to be late.