

VERB PATTERNS

1) Verb + Infinitive

afford	consent	hope	seem
appear	decide	manage	tend
arrange	demand	offer	undertake
ask	endeavour	proceed	want
choose	expect	promise	wish
claim	fail	refuse	

Examples

We *arranged* to review the main principles for you

They *decided* to proceed with their plan

2) Verb + ing

admit	delay	mind	recommend
advocate	deny	miss	save
anticipate	involve	postpone	suggest
avoid	justify	prevent	support
consider	mention	risk	try

Examples

We *recommend* using this as a reference when writing

Your visit to Brussels *involved* meeting a lot of people

- **Verbs of liking and disliking:**

detest	enjoy	fancy	love
dislike	hate	like	

Examples

I *love* swimming but I *hate* jogging.

- **Phrases with mind:**

wouldn't mind (= would like)

don't mind (= I am willing to)

would you mind (= will you please...?)

Examples

I *wouldn't mind* having some fish and chips.

I *don't mind* waiting for a few minutes.

Would you mind holding this for me?

- **Other common verbs are:**

avoid	keep	start	leave
begin	miss	stop	prevent
catch	practise	find	
finish	risk	imagine	

Examples

I *haven't finished* writing this letter.

Let's *practise* speaking English.

- **Passive form of -ing**

Many of these verbs are sometimes followed by the passive form of **-ing: *being*** + past participle

Examples

I don't *like* being interrupted.

Our dog *loves* being stroked under the chin.

- **Noun + -ing clause**

Some verbs are followed by a noun and an **-ing** clause:

Verbs to do with the senses:

see	hear	listen to
watch	smell	etc.

Examples

We *saw* everybody running away.

I could *hear* someone singing.

3) Verb + preposition + verb + ing

Examples

We agreed on sharing the task between us

I apologise for being late

Success depends on having the correct personnel in place

We succeeded in reaching an agreement

4) Verb + object + preposition + verb + ing

Examples

The authorities accused the company of breaching the company rules

Please forgive me for not sending the file sooner

There is nothing to prevent them from accepting the proposal

I would like to thank you for attending this discussion

5) Special cases: meaning differs

Added to the four above categories, there's also a restricted group of verbs that can be followed by either an infinitive or -ing, *but with a difference in meaning*:

5. Special cases: meaning differs		
Verb	Case 1 (+ infinitive)	Case 2 (+ ing)
Try	We <u>tried to implement</u> the new guidelines [= attempted → failed/partially failed]	We <u>tried implementing</u> the new guidelines [= tried a new method / approach]
Stop	I <u>stopped to speak</u> to the boss [= stopped what I was doing so I could speak to him]	I <u>stopped speaking</u> to the boss [= permanently gave up this activity - i.e. never spoke to him again]
Remember	We <u>remembered to check</u> the contract's fine print [= we didn't forget to do this]	We <u>remember checking</u> the contract's fine print [= we recall that we did this action - i.e. we're sure we did it]
Forget	We <u>forgot to book</u> the meeting room [= we didn't remember to do this]	We <u>forgot booking</u> it last week [= we couldn't recall this action - i.e. we didn't remember we had done it]

I hope these give you a clear reference tool :-)

Fill in the right form of the verb given. Use verb+ing or to+infinitive.

Example: I want (go) ___ to the cinema tonight. (good= to go; bad = ~~going~~)

1. The children's mother signalled them (be) _____ quiet.
2. I wouldn't lower myself (respond) _____ to his insults if I were you.
3. She authorised her bank (pay) _____ him £3000.
4. Didn't he use (be) _____ the doctor in 'Star Trek'?
5. It amazes me (think) _____ that she's now in charge of the company.
6. Could I trouble you (open) _____ that window? I'm afraid I can't reach it.
7. I don't wish (worry) _____ you but she did say she'd be back by midnight.
8. She timed her trip (coincide) _____ with her cousin's wedding.
9. She wishes (make) _____ a complaint.
10. The weather threatens (change) _____ by the end of the week.
11. They did not volunteer (work) _____ through the weekend.
12. She hungered (see) _____ him again.
13. Personally, I favour (travel) _____ by night when the roads are quiet.
14. It's a book about a woman who leaves jail and determines (reform) _____ .
15. They chanced (be) _____ in the restaurant when we arrived.
16. He advised her (wait) _____ a little longer.
17. I'd advise (wait) _____ until tomorrow.
18. I ached (see) _____ her again.
19. A majority of staff voted (accept) _____ the offer of an 8% pay rise.
20. His views tend (be) _____ rather conservative.

Put the verb in brackets into the correct form (gerund or infinitive) (-ing or verb) Example: Would you mind (buy) _____ me lunch? (key = buying)

1. Please go on (write) _____ .
2. He wore sunglasses (avoid) _____ the sunshine.
3. I tried (persuade) _____ them to agree with my opinion.
4. I don't allow my children (smoke) _____ at all.
5. You are not allowed (smoke) _____ in this room.
6. I couldn't help (overhear) _____ what you said.
7. I regret (inform) _____ you that you have failed the exams.
8. The boys like (play) _____ these games.
9. I am beginning (understand) _____ what you mean.
10. After (walk) _____ for three hours we stopped to have a break.
11. Would you mind (show) _____ me the castle?
12. I'm prepared (wait) _____ here all night.
13. At dinner she bothered me by (smoke) _____ .
14. He tried (explain) _____ it but he wasn't successful.
15. I can't understand her (speak) _____ like that.
16. He refused (work) _____ faster.
17. My father told me (not speak) _____ to anyone.
18. It's not worth (wait) _____ .
19. I wish (be) _____ a manager.
20. I arranged (met) _____ him downtown.