

Verb + -ing or to

Lesson code: S8IX-D589-8A3T

INTERMEDIATE +

1 Presentation 1

When one verb follows another verb, the **infinitive** (to do / not to do) or an **-ing form** (doing / not doing) is used.

verb + infinitive	verb + -ing
Do you want to have lunch now? I decided not to go out.	I like talking to her. She doesn't recall meeting him.
<i>The infinitive is often used for an action that happens after the first verb.</i>	<i>The -ing form is often used for an action that happens at the same time as or before the first verb.</i>

Some verbs that are followed by an **infinitive**:

want **decide** **agree** **plan** **intend**
manage **threaten** **promise** **fail** **pretend**

- We **intend to spend** the summer in the countryside.
- I passed by him on the street, but he **pretended not to see** me.
- I **didn't agree to sell** you my car!

Some verbs that are followed by an **-ing form**:

enjoy **deny** **postpone** **imagine** **suggest**
consider **risk** **miss** **avoid** **involve**

- Leonard is an artist. He can't **imagine working** in an office everyday.
- She **denied breaking** the window.
- We are all very tired now. I **suggest continuing** the meeting tomorrow.

Dialogue

A: Where do you **intend to have** dinner this evening?

B: Well, I **enjoy eating** out, but I think I'll **avoid going** to the same restaurant again.



2 Practice 1

Complete the sentences with a suitable verb in the correct form (one verb is used in the negative form).

call cook finish give miss sell meet win

1. They arranged to meet at 4pm in front of the cinema.
2. I must leave early or I'll risk _____ the train.
3. I managed _____ my work on time.
4. The neighbour threatened _____ the police if they didn't turn off the loud music.
5. Their team failed _____ the first match of the tournament.
6. I'll lend you my phone charger if you promise _____ it back to me this afternoon.
7. Seth works for an electronics company. His job involves _____ computers, phones and other gadgets.
8. If you criticize my cooking again, I'll consider _____ dinner for you tonight!

Now do the same with the verbs below. Use the rules in the table on Page 1 to help you decide whether to use the infinitive or -ing form.

buy smoke do speak get up steal lend tell
win

1. You should stop _____. It's bad for your health.
2. Mrs Pierre is teaching us _____ French.
3. Mark doesn't mind _____ early.
4. After an hour of questioning by the police, he finally admitted _____ the money.
5. Their team are playing really well at the moment. They deserve _____ this match.
6. Tomek can't afford _____ a new car right now. He has to save more money.
7. I forgot _____ you that I can't come to your party tomorrow night.
8. I refused _____ him any more cash. He still owes me a lot of money.
9. Let me know when you finish _____ your homework so that we can go out.

Now answer the following questions about you:

1. What do you enjoy/not enjoy doing?
2. Have you ever risked doing something while attempting to do something else?
3. Give an example of something you have refused to do for someone.
4. Give an example of a task that you often avoid doing.



3 Presentation 2

Some verbs can be followed by an **infinitive** or an **-ing form**, with a difference in meaning.

remember + infinitive	remember + -ing
Please remember to lock the door before you leave the house. <i>You remember to do something before you do it.</i>	I don't remember locking the door. I'll have to go back and check. <i>You remember doing something after you do it.</i>
forget + infinitive	forget + -ing
I'm sorry, I forgot to answer your email. <i>If you forget to do something, you forget it before you do it.</i>	I'll never forget driving for the first time. <i>If you won't or will never forget doing something, you remember something that happened in the past.</i>
stop + infinitive	stop + -ing
I saw Tom earlier. I stopped to talk to him. <i>You stop to do something before you do it.</i>	I stopped smoking years ago. <i>You stop doing something after you do it.</i>
regret + infinitive	regret + -ing
We regret to inform you that you have failed the exam. <i>(formal) If you regret to say something/inform somebody/tell somebody, you are sorry to have to say something.</i>	I regret not studying for my exams. I could have a much better job now. <i>If you regret doing something, you are sorry (now) that you did something (in the past).</i>
try + infinitive	try + -ing
I tried to help him, but he refused. <i>If you try to do something, you attempt/make an effort to do it.</i>	Try emailing him. He might answer. <i>If you try doing something, you do something as an experiment or test.</i>
need + infinitive	need + -ing
She needs to relax . <i>If you need to do something, it is necessary or important for you to do it.</i>	The kitchen needs cleaning . <i>If something needs doing, it needs to be done.</i>



These verbs can be followed by an **infinitive** or an **-ing form**, with little or no difference in meaning:

start **begin** **continue** **bother**

verb + infinitive

It has **started to rain**.
 They **began to play** at 4pm.
 He **continued to work** after lunch.
 Don't **bother to call** him. He never answers.

verb + -ing

It has **started raining**.
 They **began playing** at 4pm.
 He **continued working** after lunch.
 Don't **bother calling** him. He never answers.

But after **-ing**, we usually use an **infinitive**:

He's beginning **to relax**. He's ~~beginning relaxing~~.

4 Practice 2

Put the verbs in the correct form.

- Your internet connection isn't working? Have you tried _____ (restart) your computer?
- I tried _____ (stop) the taxi, but the driver didn't see me.
- Joe's bedroom needs _____ (tidy). It's a complete mess.
- Vitor needs _____ (relax) more. He works too hard.
- I think you know Juliette. Don't you remember _____ (meet) her at the party?
- I hope you will remember _____ (buy) some milk when you are at the supermarket this time.
- I regret _____ (tell) you that we are unable to offer you the job.
- I feel very sleepy. I regret _____ (go) to bed so late.
- Don't forget _____ (call) me if you want to go out tomorrow night.
- I'll never forget _____ (shake) the president's hand.
- The young boy started _____ (cry) when he couldn't find his toy.
- Look outside. It's starting _____ (rain).
- I wouldn't bother _____ (invite) Tom to the party. He isn't a very social person.
- Why are you bothering _____ (call) her? You know she has a boyfriend.
- Kate's boyfriend is always very rude. I think she should stop _____ (see) him.
- While I was on my way home, I stopped _____ (buy) some bread.

Now answer the following questions about you:

- Is there anything you'll never forget doing? Is there anything you often forget to do?
- Have you recently stopped doing something that was bad for you?
- Is there anything you regret doing?



2 Practice 1

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| 2. missing | 3. to finish | 4. to call | 5. to win |
| 6. to give | 7. selling | 8. not cooking | |
| 1. smoking | 2. to speak | 3. getting up | |
| 4. stealing | 5. to win | 6. to buy | |
| 7. to tell | 8. to lend | 9. doing | |

4 Practice 2

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. restarting | 2. to stop | 3. tidying | 4. to relax |
| 5. meeting | 6. to buy | 7. to tell | 8. going |
| 9. to call | 10. shaking | 11. to cry/crying | 12. to rain |
| 13. inviting/to invite | 14. to call | 15. seeing | 16. to buy |

