

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 :-)