

INFINITIVES AND ING

- Sometimes we need to decide whether to use a verb in its: -ing form, gerund (doing, singing) or infinitive form (to do, to sing). For example, only one of the following sentences is correct. Which one?
- *We decided to take a taxi OR We decided taking a taxi*

A) WHEN TO USE AN INFINITIVE:

1-always used AFTER ADJECTIVES, for example: disappointed, glad, happy, pleased, relieved, sad, surprised...

- *I was happy to help them. She will be delighted to see you.*
- - Including **TOO+ADJECTIVE:** *The water was too cold to swim in.*
- *Is your coffee too hot to drink?*
- - It is used after **ADJECTIVE+ENOUGH:** *He was strong enough to lift it.*
- *She is rich enough to buy two.*

2- It's used to express PURPOSE*: *He phoned to invite me to a party*

- ***For+somebody+TO DO+something:** *This bench is for us to sit on /*
- ***For+ing:** *A knife is used for cutting*

- **3- It's always used after QUESTION WORDS+ a verb:**

- *I don't know how to do it. He didn't say when to call him.*

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4- The infinitive form is used after certain verbs:- agree, allow, can/can't afford, choose, decide, encourage, expect, forget, help, hope, learn, manage, mean, offer, plan, pretend, promise, recommend, refuse, teach, train, want...

- *I forgot to close the window. We can't afford to take a long holiday.*

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5- With other verbs the structure is: VERB+(obj)+TO* infinitive: -allow, ask, expect,

- help, invite, mean, order, recommend, remind, teach, tell, want, warn...*The police ordered the people to leave.*

- *He wanted me to go with him. I warned him not to come back late.*

- **!!*- make & let: verb+obj.+infinitive without to.** *Let me do it.*

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6- Always with MODAL VERBS+infinitive without to: - can/could, may/might, must, need, shall/should, will/would. (Except: ought to).

- *She can swim very well. I'll see you tomorrow. You mustn't do that.*

- *You should go to the doctor. / You ought to go to the doctor.*

- **B) WHEN TO USE A GERUND (-ing):**1- The -ing form is used as a noun and is the subject of a sentence or clause:

- *Swimming is good exercise. Doctors say that smoking is bad for you.*

- **2- The -ing form is ALWAYS used after a PREPOSITION:**

- *They left without saying "goodbye".*

or a **VERB+PREPOSITION***: - succeed in, insist on, think of...

- *He insisted on taking me home.*

- or **EXPRESSIONS***: - it's no good/use, have difficulty, go+-ing...

- *It's no use in complaining He goes swimming every Tuesday.*

- **!!* Watch out with:**

- - **USED TO+infinitive**: *He used to wear glasses.*

- - **BE/GET USED TO+ing**: *He's used to getting up early.*

- - **LOOK FORWARD TO+ing**: *They are looking forward to visiting us this summer.*

- **3- The -ing form is used after certain verbs:** avoid, can/can't stand, carry on, dislike, enjoy, fancy, finish, give up, imagine, keep on, mind/not mind, miss, practise
I dislike getting up early. Would you mind opening the window?

C) Some verbs can be followed by the -ing form or the infinitive:

1) Without a big change in meaning: begin, continue, hate, intend, like*, love, prefer*, propose, start.

It started to rain. (common) - It started raining.

I like to play tennis. (it's good, right) - I like playing tennis. (I enjoy it).

!!*would like to+infinitive: *I would like to live here.*

- **!!*prefer +ing to +ing:** *I prefer driving to travelling by train.*
- **prefer to infinitive rather than...:** *I prefer to drive rather than to travel by train.*
- **would prefer to infinitive rather than...:** *I'd prefer to stay (rather than leave).*

2) Others have a change of meaning depending on which is used:

- REMEMBER / REGRET/ FORGET

- *I remember posting the letter. (= He remembers having done it. After)*
Remember to post the letter when you go out. (Before doing it, remind you to do it.)

- NEED

- *I need to do more exercise. (It's necessary for me).*
The batteries need changing. (Need as a modal verb. It needs to be done.).

- STOP

- *I stopped to talk to him. (It tells the reason for stopping).*
He stopped walking. (It tells the action which stopped).

- TRY

- *I tried to keep my eyes open. (Effort, attempt).*
Try pressing this button. (Experiment, test).