

- English Grammar in Use (Grammar Addition to the Textbook English for Pharmacy and Medical Bioanalytics)
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- Verb + Infinitive or Verb + -ing

## Verb + Infinitiv or Verb + -ing

After certain verbs we use the -ing form, and after other verbs we use the infinitive. Sometimes we can use either form and there is no change in meaning. Occasionally we can use either form and there is a change in meaning.

So what's the rule for whether we use the *-ing* form or the *infinitive*?

Sorry, there isn't a rule. You have to learn which verbs go with which pattern.

The verbs followed by *-ing* include e.g.: *enjoy*, *mind*, *stop* and *recommend*.

*I told him you really **enjoy cooking**.*

*Would you **mind helping** me?*

*It didn't **stop raining** all day yesterday.*

*Daisy **recommends trying** Alfie's tiramisu.*

The negative is *verb + not + -ing*.

*Imagine **not having** pizza! I eat it all the time.*

### Verbs usually followed by *-ing*:

A: admit, appreciate, avoid, allow! advise!

B: bother!, begin!

C: consider, continue!, carry on, count on



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D: deny, delay, dislike

E: enjoy

F: feel like, fancy, face, finish, forget!

G: give up, go on

H: hate

I: imagine, involve, insist on

K: keep, keep on

L: like, love

M: mind, miss

P: postpone, put off, prefer, prevent, practise

R: risk, recall, recommend, resent, resist, report, remember!, regret!

S: start!, stop!, suggest

T: try!

can't stand, can't bear, can't help

## Verbs followed by the infinitive:

These include e.g.: *decide, want, promise, plan* and *forget*.

She **decided to go** with Elliot instead.

I **wanted to visit** Rome.

She **promised to take** me there.

I **planned to go** to some real Italian restaurants.

She **didn't forget to phone**.

**The negative is verb + not + infinitive.**

They **decided not to make** pizza.



## Some more verbs that are usually followed by the infinitive:

*hope offer fail agree forget manage learn afford arrange ask*

*expect would like decide plan promise want invite*

## Verbs that can be followed by either form without a big change in meaning:

These include e.g.: *start, begin, continue* and *bother*.

*It started raining.* or *It started to rain.*

*Don't bother waiting* for me. or *Don't bother to wait* for me.

## The verbs *like, love* and *hate* can be followed by *-ing* or the *infinitive* when talking about *repeated actions*.

*I love reading long novels.* (British English or American English)

*I love to read long novels.* (American English)

But when we are talking about situations, we use the *-ing* form.

*Paulo loves living by the beach in Rio.*

*Do you like working as a waitress?*



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**But there are some more verbs which can be followed by *-ing* or the *infinitive*, but the two options have *different* meanings, for example *remember* and *stop*.**

*I never **remember to lock** the door, and my mum gets really angry!*

*(remember + infinitive = remember something and then do it)*

*I never **remember locking** the door, but when I go back and check I always have.*

*(remember + -ing = remember something you did before)*

*She **stopped smoking** three years ago.*

*(stop + -ing = to not do something any more)*

*It was hot, so we **stopped to have** a drink. (we stopped walking)*

*(stop + infinitive = to not do something in order to do something else)*

*Let's **stop to have** a rest now.*

*Our lab assistant won't **allow eating** in the lab.*

*We are not **allowed to eat** in the lab.*

*I'd **advise staying** longer.*

*I'd **advise you to stay** longer.*

*I'll never **forget seeing** him dying.*

*I won't **forget to go** shopping, you needn't worry.*

*I can't **remember locking** the door.*

***Remember to take** notes at the lecture.*

*I will always **regret not getting** the chance to say goodbye to you.*

*I **regret to tell/inform** you that ...*



## Check your grammar

### Complete the sentences with the verb in brackets.

1. Do you feel like  (go) to the theatre on Friday?
2. I spent a lot of time  (make) a birthday cake for him.
3. He agreed  (see) me at ten o'clock
4. They promised  (read) my report today
5. I suggest  (pay) by check, it's safer than cash
6. He offered  (make) dinner for us.
7. He put off  (see) her until very late in the afternoon.
8. I refused  (pay) for the repairs.
9. I've finished  (read) that book at last!
10. We decided  (go) to the cinema instead
11. I enjoyed the play. The  (act) was very good.
12. I love going to her class, her  (teach) is never boring.
13. He's my favourite writer, his  (write) is wonderful.
14. His  (complain) is getting on my nerves. He's never happy.
15. They have terrible debts. Their  (spend) is out of control



16. It's a very fit team. Their  (train) is very intensive.
17. I can still remember  (visit) my grandparents fifty years ago.
18. Please, remember  (feed) the dog while I'm away
19. I'll never forget  (see) that van Gogh exhibition in New York
20. Don't forget  (post) my letters, please.
21. I regret  (lend) him the money. He never paid it back.
22. We regret  (inform) you that your application has been refused.
23. I'll just finish  (clean) the kitchen then I'll stop.
24. She suggested  (have) dinner at her house.
25. She doesn't mind  (do) the boring jobs.
26. He keeps  (ask) me to go out with him.
27. He has given up  (smoke).
28. He's very good at  (get) me to do what he wants
29. He insisted on  (be) refunded immediately.
30. He failed. He's very bad at  (do) exams.

(Answers: 1. going 2. making 3. to see 4. to read 5. paying 6. to make 7. seeing 8. to pay 9. reading 10. to go 11. acting 12. teaching 13. writing 14. complain 15. spending 16. training 17. visiting 18. feed 19. seeing 20. to post 21. lending 22. to inform 23. cleaning 24. having 25. doing 26. asking 27. smoking 28. getting 29. being 30. doing)

