

## Verb + **-ing** (**enjoy doing / stop doing** etc.)

Look at these examples:

- I **enjoy** dancing. (*not* 'I enjoy to dance')
- Would you **mind** closing the door? (*not* 'mind to close')
- Ian **suggested** going to the cinema. (*not* 'suggested to go')

After **enjoy**, **mind** and **suggest**, we use **-ing** (*not* to...).

Here are some more verbs that are followed by **-ing**:

<b>stop</b>	<b>delay</b>	<b>fancy</b>	<b>consider</b>	<b>admit</b>	<b>miss</b>	<b>involve</b>
<b>finish</b>	<b>postpone</b>	<b>imagine</b>	<b>avoid</b>	<b>deny</b>	<b>risk</b>	<b>practise</b>

- Suddenly everybody **stopped** talking. There was silence.
- I'll do the shopping when I've **finished** cleaning the flat.
- He tried to **avoid** answering my question.
- I don't **fancy** going out this evening.
- Have you ever **considered** going to live in another country?

Note the negative form **not -ing**:

- When I'm on holiday, I **enjoy not having** to get up early.

We also use **-ing** after:

<b>give up</b> (= stop)
<b>put off</b> (= postpone)
<b>carry on / go on</b> (= continue)
<b>keep or keep on</b> (= do something continuously or repeatedly)

- Paula has **given up** smoking.
- We must do something. We can't **go on** living like this! (*or* ...**carry on** living...)
- Don't **keep** interrupting me while I'm speaking. (*or* Don't **keep on** interrupting...)

With some verbs you can use the structure *verb* + somebody + **-ing**:

- I can't **imagine** George riding a motorbike.
- You can't **stop me** doing what I want.
- 'Sorry to **keep you** waiting so long.' 'That's all right.'

Note the passive form (**being done/seen/kept** etc.):

- I don't **mind being kept** waiting. (= I don't mind **people keeping me**...)

When you are talking about finished actions, you can say **having done/stolen/said** etc.:

- She admitted **having stolen** the money.

But it is not necessary to use **having** (done). You can also use the simple **-ing** form for finished actions:

- She admitted **stealing** the money.
- I now **regret saying** (*or* **having said**) what I said.

For **regret**, see Unit 55B.

After some of the verbs on this page (especially **admit/deny/suggest**) you can use **that...**:

- She **denied that** she had stolen the money. (*or* She **denied** stealing...)
- Ian **suggested that** we went to the cinema. (*or* Ian **suggested** going...)

For **suggest**, see also Unit 34.

## Verb + **to...** (**decide to do / forget to do** etc.)

offer	decide	hope	deserve	attempt	promise
agree	plan	aim	afford	manage	threaten
refuse	arrange	learn	forget	fail	

If these verbs are followed by another verb, the structure is usually *verb + to...* (*infinitive*):

- It was late, so we **decided to take** a taxi home.
- Simon was in a difficult situation, so I **agreed to lend** him some money.
- How old were you when you **learnt to drive**? (or 'learnt **how to drive**')
- I waved to Karen but **failed to attract** her attention.

Note these examples with the *negative not to...*:

- We **decided not to go** out because of the weather.
- I **promised not to be** late.

With many verbs you cannot normally use **to...** . For example, **enjoy/think/suggest**:

- I **enjoy dancing**. (*not* 'enjoy to dance')
- Ian **suggested going** to the cinema. (*not* 'suggested to go')
- Are you **thinking of buying** a car? (*not* 'thinking to buy' )

For verb + **-ing**, see Unit 52. For verb + preposition + **-ing**, see Unit 61.

We also use **to...** after: **seem appear tend pretend claim**. For example:

- They **seem to have** plenty of money.
- I like George but I think he **tends to talk** too much.
- Ann **pretended not to see** me as she passed me in the street.

There is also a *continuous* infinitive (**to be doing**) and a *perfect* infinitive (**to have done**):

- I **pretended to be reading** the newspaper. (= I pretended that I **was reading**)
- You **seem to have lost** weight. (= it seems that you **have lost** weight)

We say 'decide to do something', 'promise to do something' etc. In the same way, we say 'a decision to do something', 'a promise to do something' etc. (*noun + to...*):

- I think his **decision to give up** his job was stupid.
- George has a **tendency to talk** too much.

After **dare** you can use the infinitive with or without **to**:

- I wouldn't **dare to tell** him. *or* I wouldn't **dare tell** him.

But after **daren't** (*or dare not*), you must use the infinitive without **to**:

- I **daren't tell** him what happened. (*not* 'I daren't to tell him')

After the following verbs you can use a question word (**what/whether/how** etc.) + **to...**:

ask decide know remember forget explain learn understand wonder

We asked	how	to get	to the station.
Have you decided	where	to go	for your holidays?
I don't know	whether	to apply	for the job or not.
Do you understand	what	to do?	

*Also*: **show / tell / ask / advise / teach** somebody **what / how / where** to do something:

- Can somebody **show me how to change** the film in this camera?
- Ask Jack. He'll tell you **what to do**.

