

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

A

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

After these verbs you can use **to ...** (*infinitive*):

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

The negative is **not to ...** :

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

After some verbs **to ...** is not possible. For example, **enjoy/think/suggest**:

- ☐ I **enjoy reading**. (*not enjoy to read*)
- ☐ Andy **suggested meeting** for coffee. (*not suggested to meet*)
- ☐ Are you **thinking of buying** a car? (*not thinking to buy*)

For verb + **-ing**, see Unit 53. For verb + preposition + **-ing**, see Unit 62.

B

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

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

C

We also use **to ...** after:

seem appear tend pretend claim

For example:

- ☐ They **seem to have** plenty of money.
- ☐ I like Dan, but I think he **tends to talk** too much.
- ☐ Ann **pretended not to see** me when 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 paper. (= I pretended that I **was reading**)
- ☐ You **seem to have lost** weight. (= it seems that you **have lost** weight)
- ☐ Joe **seems to be enjoying** his new job. (= it seems that he **is enjoying** it)

D

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

We use this structure especially after:

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 use** this camera?
- ☐ Ask Jack. He'll **tell you what to do**.

Exercises

54.1 Complete the sentences for these situations.

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Shall we get married? |  | Yes, let's. | They decided <u>to get married</u> . |
| 2 | Please help me. |  | OK. | She agreed |
| 3 | Can I carry your bag for you? |  | No, thanks. I can manage. | He offered |
| 4 | Let's meet at 8 o'clock. |  | OK, fine. | They arranged |
| 5 | What's your name? |  | I'm not going to tell you. | She refused |
| 6 | Please don't tell anyone. |  | I won't. I promise. | She promised |

54.2 Complete each sentence with a suitable verb.

- Don't forget to lock the door when you go out.
- There was a lot of traffic, but we managed to the airport in time.
- We couldn't afford in London. It's too expensive.
- We've got new computer software in our office. I haven't learnt it yet.
- Mark doesn't know what happened. I decided not him.
- We were all afraid to speak. Nobody dared anything.

54.3 Put the verb into the correct form, to ... or -ing. (See Unit 53 for verbs + -ing.)

- When I'm tired, I enjoy watching television. It's relaxing. (watch)
- I've decided for another job. I need a change. (look)
- Let's get a taxi. I don't fancy home. (walk)
- I'm not in a hurry. I don't mind (wait)
- Tina ran in a marathon last week, but she failed (finish)
- I wish that dog would stop It's driving me crazy. (bark)
- Our neighbour threatened the police if we didn't stop the noise. (call)
- We were hungry, so I suggested dinner early. (have)
- Hurry up! I don't want to risk the train. (miss)
- They didn't know I was listening to them. I pretended asleep. (be)

54.4 Make a new sentence using the verb in brackets.

- You've lost weight. (seem) You seem to have lost weight.
- Tom is worried about something. (appear) Tom appears
- You know a lot of people. (seem) You
- My English is getting better. (seem)
- That car has broken down. (appear)
- David forgets things. (tend)
- They have solved the problem. (claim)

54.5 Complete each sentence using what/how/where/whether + these verbs:

do ~~get~~ go put ride use

- Do you know how to get to John's house?
- Would you know if there was a fire in the building?
- You'll never forget a bicycle once you've learnt.
- I've been invited to the party, but I haven't decided or not.
- My room is very untidy. I've got so many things and I don't know them.
- I have some clothes to wash. Can you show me the washing machine?

Verb + **-ing** or **to ...** 1 (remember/regret etc.)

A Some verbs are followed by **-ing** and some are followed by **to ...**

Verbs usually followed by **-ing**:

admit	fancy	postpone
avoid	finish	risk
consider	imagine	stop
deny	keep (on)	suggest
enjoy	mind	

For examples, see Unit 53.

Verbs usually followed by **to ...**:

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

For examples, see Unit 54.

B Some verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...** with a difference of meaning:

remember

I **remember doing** something = I did it and now I remember this.

You **remember doing** something *after* you have done it.

- ☐ I know I locked the door. I clearly **remember locking** it.
(= I locked it, and now I remember this)
- ☐ He could **remember driving** along the road just before the accident, but he couldn't remember the accident itself.

I **remembered to do** something = I remembered that I had to do it, so I did it.

You **remember to do** something *before* you do it.

- ☐ I **remembered to lock** the door, but I forgot to shut the windows.
(= I remembered that I had to lock it, and so I locked it)
- ☐ I must **remember to pay** the electricity bill. (= I must not forget to pay it)

regret

I **regret doing** something = I did it and now I'm sorry about it:

- ☐ I now **regret saying** what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
- ☐ Do you **regret not going** to college?

I **regret to say / to tell you / to inform** you = I'm sorry that I have to say (etc.):

- ☐ (*from a formal letter*) We **regret to inform** you that your application has been unsuccessful.

go on

Go on doing something = continue with the same thing:

- ☐ The president paused for a moment and then **went on talking**.
- ☐ We need to change. We can't **go on living** like this.

Go on to do something = do or say something new:

- ☐ After discussing the economy, the president then **went on to talk** about foreign policy.

C The following verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...** with no difference of meaning:
begin start continue intend bother

So you can say:

- ☐ It **started raining**. or It **started to rain**.
- ☐ Andy **intends buying** a house. or Andy **intends to buy** ...
- ☐ Don't **bother locking** the door. or Don't **bother to lock** ...

But normally we do not use **-ing** after **-ing**:

- ☐ It's **starting to rain**. (*not* It's starting raining)

56.1 Put the verb into the correct form, -ing or to ...

- 1 They denied stealing the money. (steal)
- 2 I don't enjoy very much. (drive)
- 3 I can't afford out tonight. I don't have enough money. (go)
- 4 Has it stopped yet? (rain)
- 5 We were unlucky to lose the game. We deserved (win)
- 6 Why do you keep me questions? Can't you leave me alone? (ask)
- 7 Please stop me questions! (ask)
- 8 I refuse any more questions. (answer)
- 9 The driver of one of the cars admitted the accident. (cause)
- 10 Mark needed our help, and we promised what we could. (do)
- 11 I don't mind alone, but it's better to be with other people. (be)
- 12 The wall was quite high, but I managed over it. (climb)
- 13 'Does Sarah know about the meeting?' 'No, I forgot her.' (tell)
- 14 I've enjoyed to you. I hope you again soon. (talk, see)

56.2 Tom can remember some things about his childhood, but he can't remember others. Complete the sentences.

- 1 He was in hospital when he was a small child. He can still remember this.
He can remember being in hospital when he was a small child.
- 2 He went to Paris with his parents when he was eight. He remembers this.
He remembers with his parents when he was eight.
- 3 He cried on his first day at school. He doesn't remember this.
He doesn't on his first day at school.
- 4 Once he fell into the river. He can remember this.
He
- 5 He said he wanted to be a doctor. He can't remember this.
..... to be a doctor.
- 6 Once he was bitten by a dog. He doesn't remember this.
..... a dog.

56.3 Complete each sentence with a verb in the correct form, -ing or to ... Sometimes either form is possible.

- 1 a Please remember to lock the door when you go out.
b A: You lent me some money a few months ago.
B: Did I? Are you sure? I don't remember you any money.
- c A: Did you remember your sister?
B: Oh no, I completely forgot. I'll phone her tomorrow.
- d When you see Steve, remember hello to him from me.
- e Someone must have taken my bag. I clearly remember it by the window and now it has gone.
- 2 a I believe that what I said was right. I don't regret it.
b I knew they were in trouble, but I regret I did nothing to help them.
- c It started to get cold, and he regretted not his coat.
- 3 a Ben joined the company nine years ago. He became assistant manager after two years, and a few years later he went on manager of the company.
b I can't go on here any more. I want a different job.
- c When I came into the room, Lisa was reading a newspaper. She looked up and said hello, and then went on her newspaper.
- 4 a If the company continues money, the factory may be closed.
b Julia has been ill, but now she's beginning better.
- c The baby started in the middle of the night.