

## Verbs taking the to -infinitive or the -ing form without a change in meaning

- ◆ **forget + to - inf** = not remember  
e.g. I have to go out. I **forgot to buy** a newspaper.  
**forget + -ing form** = not recall  
e.g. I'll never **forget travelling** by plane for the first time.
- ◆ **remember + to - inf** = not forget  
e.g. Did you **remember to tell** Sam about the meeting?  
**remember + -ing form** = recall  
e.g. I **remember talking** to him before.
- ◆ **go on + to - inf** = then  
e.g. She introduced herself and **went on to talk** about her new book.  
**go on + -ing form** = continue  
e.g. He **went on writing** letters until 10.00.
- ◆ **mean + to - inf** = intend to  
e.g. She **means to buy** a new car soon.  
**mean + -ing form** = involve  
e.g. She is determined to get a ticket for the concert, even if it **means paying** a lot of money.
- ◆ **regret + to - inf** = be sorry to (it is normally used in the present simple and is followed by verbs such as say, tell, inform)  
e.g. We **regret to inform** you that you have failed.  
**regret + -ing form** = feel sorry about  
e.g. He **regretted selling** his house.
- ◆ **try + to - inf** = attempt, do one's best  
e.g. We **tried to move** the heavy branch to the side of the road.  
**try + -ing form** = do sth as an experiment  
e.g. If you can't go to sleep, **try drinking** some milk.
- ◆ **stop + to - inf** = stop briefly to do sth else  
e.g. He **stopped to fill** the tank with petrol, then continued driving.  
**stop + -ing form** = finish, give up  
e.g. He **stopped drinking** coffee because it upset his stomach.
- ◆ **be sorry + to - inf** = apologise for a present action  
e.g. I'm **sorry to say** this, but your work is rather unsatisfactory.  
**be sorry for + -ing form** = apologise for an earlier action  
e.g. We **are sorry for keeping** you waiting.
- ◆ **like + to - inf** = think that sth is good or right to do  
e.g. I **like to pay** my bills as soon as I get them.  
**like + -ing form** = enjoy (general preference)  
e.g. Tom **likes meeting** new people.  
**would like + to - inf** = want (specific preference)  
e.g. I **would like to go** to that new restaurant.
- ◆ **be afraid + to - inf** = the subject is unwilling to do sth  
e.g. He **is afraid to touch** the dog in case it bites him.  
**be afraid of + -ing form** = (the subject is afraid that what is described by the -ing form may happen)  
e.g. She **doesn't want to drive** her father's car.  
She's **afraid of crashing** it.

### ◆ begin, start, continue, propose, bother, intend

We never have two -ing forms together.

e.g. We **continued to discuss/discussing** the plans.

Don't **bother to lay/laying** the table.

It's **starting to get** cold. (NOT: ~~It's starting getting cold.~~)

### ◆ advise, allow, permit, recommend, encourage

take the to-infinitive when they are followed by an object or when they are in the passive form. They take the -ing form when they are not followed by an object.

e.g. He **advised us to book** in advance. (object)

We **were advised to book** in advance. (passive)

We **advise booking** in advance. (no object)

### ◆ need/require/want + -ing form

This construction often shows that it is necessary to repair or improve something. 'Need' can also be followed by a passive infinitive.

e.g. The carpet **needs Hoovering**.

The carpet **needs to be hoovered**.