

The -ing form is used

- 1 as a noun, especially if the noun is the subject of the sentence:
Smoking is bad for your health.
- 2 after all prepositions: *You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs.*
- 3 after certain verbs and phrasal verbs: *I'm looking forward to seeing you.*

The infinitive with 'to' is used

- 1 after a noun: *I have a lot of things to do today.*
- 2 after an adjective: *It's good to see you again.*
- 3 after certain verbs: *He agreed not to exceed the speed limit.*

verb + ...ing

common verbs	prepositions and adverbs
admit, avoid, can't help (=can't avoid), can't stand (=can't bear), consider, enjoy, finish, can't imagine, keep, mention, don't mind, would mind , miss, practise, (can't) resist, risk, suggest , <i>would consider</i> , <i>would enjoy</i>	be used to , get used to , give up (=stop), keep on (=continue), look forward to , take up, ...

verb + infinitive

with 'to'	without 'to'
can't afford to, agree to, arrange to, ask to, attempt to, beg to, choose to, decide to, expect to, help to, hope to, learn (how) to, manage to, need to (=have to), offer to, ought to, pretend to, promise to, refuse to, seem to, threaten to, used to, (can't) wait to, want to, would like to , <i>would love to</i> , would prefer to	help, <i>modal verbs</i> : can, could, may, might, must, needn't, shall, should, will, would would rather (not)

verb + ...ing or infinitive

same meaning	different meaning
begin*, start, can't bear, continue, hate, intend, like*, love, prefer*	regret*, stop*, ...

NOTES:

***begin, start**: It is perhaps more common to use an -ing form after **begin** and **start** when we are talking about the beginning of a long or habitual activity:

How old were you when you first started playing the piano?

The -ing form is not used after a continuous form of *begin* or *start*:

I was beginning to get angry. (not 'getting')

***like**, etc: We most often use an -ing form to talk about general preferences, but it is more common to use the infinitive when we choose to do something because we think it is a good idea, or when we are referring to one particular occasion: *I like swimming but I prefer sailing.*

I like to go to the dentist's every year.

(=I think it is a good idea, although I may not enjoy it.)

***prefer:** We use an *-ing* form to talk about general preferences and the infinitive to talk about preferences on a particular occasion.

When **prefer** is used with an infinitive, another clause can be introduced by 'rather than'. Two structures are possible:

I **would prefer to spend** the weekend at home **rather than (to) drive/ driving** all the way to your mother's.

***regret:** We use **regret + ...ing** form to say that we regret something that we have already done:

I **regret saying** that he was an idiot. (or I **regret having said**...)

(=I regret that I said - at some earlier time - that he was an idiot.)

We use **regret + to-inf.** to say we regret something that we have to do now:

I **regret to say** that I **won't be able to come to the meeting on Monday.**

(=I am sorry that I must now tell you that...)

***stop:** We use **stop + ...ing** form to say what we do before we stop:

I'm a vegetarian. I **stopped eating** meat 5 years ago. (*Dejé de comer*...)

We use **stop + to-infinitive** to say why we stop:

After I'd been working for 3 hours, I **stopped to eat** lunch. (*dejar de hacer algo para hacer otra cosa*)

(=I stopped *in order to* eat lunch.)

1 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the list. Use the gerund.

cancel, compose, do, eat, enjoy, get up, listen to, live, phone, read

- 1 I've just finished that book.
- 2 Are you good at songs?
- 3 My mum hates appointments.
- 4 Kit keeps me on my mobile.
- 5 yoga is a good way to relax.
- 6 I don't mind early on Saturdays.
- 7 I can't imagine in another country.
- 8 I have to avoid nuts.
- 9 Do you enjoy pop music?

2 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the list. Use the infinitive.

buy, check, cook, go, manage, play, record, teach, tune

- 1 Elsa agreed me how to play the piano.
- 2 I often forget my emails.
- 3 My brother hopes a rock band one day.
- 4 Max learned the drums when he was five.
- 5 We really want to a Green Day concert.
- 6 Ana promised me dinner.
- 7 I need my guitar.
- 8 The band decided their second album in New York.
- 9 Jack offered me a drink.

3 Verb + gerund / infinitive. Choose the correct alternatives.

- 1 Miguel suggested *going / to go* for a walk in the park.
- 2 He managed *getting / to get* a job as a DJ.
- 3 They refused *signing / to sign* the contract.
- 4 If we keep on *trying / to try*, we'll succeed.
- 5 She promised *staying / to stay* in contact.
- 6 I can't wait *seeing / to see* Razorlight in concert.
- 7 I miss *playing / to play* the drums.
- 8 What time are you expecting the band *arriving / to arrive*?
- 9 The band stopped *playing / to play* in 2005.

4 Are the sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 To play the saxophone is not easy.
- 2 It's difficult understand the lyrics.
- 3 I can't stand waiting in queues.
- 4 Have you decided to go to the music festival?
- 5 He kept on to talk for hours.
- 6 In spite of working late, she didn't finish her homework.
- 7 I always have a drink before to go to bed.
- 8 We attempted seeing the band after the concert.
- 9 Would you consider live abroad?
- 10 We haven't got time to go shopping.

5 Write the words in the correct order.

- 1 this / I / use / find / to / computer / difficult
.....

- 2 is / this / not / pronounce / easy / to / word
.....

- 3 to / doing / helps / exercise / you / lose / weight
.....

- 4 can't / I / stand / boring / talking / to / people
.....

- 5 coffee / I / to / prefer / not / drink
.....

- 6 you / did / to / catch / manage / your / train?
.....

- 7 he / to / getting / avoid / up / tries / early
.....

- 8 buying / I / not / regret / the / tickets / expensive
.....

- 9 is / to / listening / relaxing / music / very
.....

6 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the list. Use the gerund or the infinitive.

buy, concentrate, dance, get, go out, learn, open, play, tune

- 1 We can't afford every night.
- 2 This song is great. I can't resist
- 3 Is it difficult with all that noise?
- 4 He attempted the door, but it was locked.
- 5 We're waiting the band's autographs.
- 6 It is important a guitar before playing it.
- 7 Why did you give up in the band?
- 8 She regretted those shoes.
- 9 She isn't interested in to drive.

7 Finish these sentences with the endings below. Put the verbs into the correct form, the gerund or the infinitive.

- (be) on her own with him. • (come) home before eleven o'clock.
- (get) tickets for the concert. • (give) him my number.
- (listen) to this music any longer. • (play) the guitar. • (see) all her friends.

- 1 I must go. I can't stand.....
- 2 'Air guitar' is when you pretend
- 3 Jenny hates Billy so she avoids
- 4 He keeps phoning me. I regret
- 5 Before going out, I have to promise
- 6 It was difficult, but we managed
- 7 When she left school, she missed

8 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the list.

agree, consider, enjoy, give up, hope, intend, keep on, mind, wait

- 1 We'll do it. We don't helping you.
- 2 You're good at music so you should becoming a musician.
- 3 Will he to lend you some money?
- 4 I can't to go on holiday next week.
- 5 If you doing that, I'll get really angry.
- 6 Why did he playing the guitar?
- 7 I to be a journalist when I'm older.
- 8 They going to the park on a Sunday afternoon.
- 9 I don't to stay long at the party.

9 Choose the correct alternatives. Sometimes both verbs are correct.

- 1 I started *feeling* / *to feel* ill when I got to school.
- 2 Do you expect the album *being* / *to be* a success?
- 3 We managed *speaking* / *to speak* to the lead singer.
- 4 My father prefers *listening* / *to listen* to classical music.
- 5 The manager threatened *calling* / *to call* the police.
- 6 I hate *saying* / *to say* this, but the song is terrible.
- 7 We finished *eating* / *to eat* at about midnight.
- 8 You should avoid *eating* / *to eat* in smoky restaurants.
- 9 I love *to spend* / *spending* time in the country.

10 Rewrite the sentences so that they mean the same as the first sentence. Use the gerund.

He worked hard, but he didn't earn much money.

Despite *working hard, he didn't earn much money.*

- 1 I played the guitar. I didn't play the drums.

Instead of

- 2 She felt ill, but she performed in the concert.

In spite of

- 3 They recorded their third album and then they went on tour.

After

- 4 She slept for ten hours, but she felt very tired.

Despite

- 5 She had a shower and then had breakfast.

Before

- 6 We didn't go to the cinema. We stayed at home.

Instead of

- 7 He walked to his friend's house and then he fell asleep.

After

- 8 I have worked hard, but I haven't finished the project.

In spite of

11 Complete the sentences so that they mean the same as the first sentence. Use the gerund or the infinitive.

She says that she made a mistake.

She admits *making a mistake.*

- 1 It isn't a good idea to walk alone at night.

It's better to avoid

- 2 Could you wait outside, please?

Would you mind ?

- 3 He was able to get into the concert free.

He managed

- 4 She said she would drive me to the airport.
She offered
- 5 He asks the same question again and again.
He keeps on
- 6 She can't stop herself from laughing.
She can't help
- 7 They wouldn't sign the contract.
They refused
- 8 I'm really excited about going to the concert.
I can't wait

12 get used to / be used to. Complete the sentences with the verbs in the list. There is one verb you don't need.

driving, get, getting up, living, playing, sleeping, use, used to

- 1 I can't get used to early.
- 2 I'm not used to on the floor.
- 3 I can't used to this strange accent!
- 4 He found it hard to get used to the violin.
- 5 I'm used to alone, so I'd find it difficult to share a flat.
- 6 Tom isn't staying out late.
- 7 In England, Marta had to get used to on the left.