

Verb + somebody + -ing

vs.

verb + somebody + to infinitive

- I can't imagine **George** riding a motorbike.
- You can't stop **me** doing what I want.
- Did you really say that? I don't remember **you** saying that.
- 'Sorry to keep **you** waiting so long.' 'That's all right.'

- We expected **Dan** to be late.
- Would you like **me** to go now?
- He doesn't want **anybody** to know.

## Subject of the infinitive / -ing form

The subject of the infinitive or the -ing form is omitted when it is the same as the subject of the main verb. I want to help *with the preparations*.

When it is different from the subject of the verb, then an object pronoun (me, you, him, her, it, us, you, them), a name or a noun is placed before the infinitive or the -ing form. I want *him/John/my brother* to help *with the preparations*. The subject of the -ing form can be an object pronoun, a possessive adjective (my, your, etc.), a name or a possessive case. I remember *him/his/Tim/Tim's* talking about that island.

tell	remind	force	encourage	teach	enable
order	warn	invite	persuade	get (= persuade)	

These verbs have the structure *verb + object + to ...* :

- Can you **remind me to call** Sam tomorrow?
- Who **taught you to drive**?
- I didn't move the piano by myself. I **got somebody to help** me.
- Joe said the switch was dangerous and **warned me not to touch** it.

## Make and let

These verbs have the structure *verb + object + infinitive (without to)*:

- I **made him promise** that he wouldn't tell anybody what happened. (*not to promise*)
- Hot weather **makes me feel** tired. (= causes me to feel tired)
- Her parents wouldn't **let her go** out alone. (= wouldn't allow her to go out)
- Let me carry** your bag for you.

We say '**make somebody do**' (*not to do*), but in the *passive* we say '**made to do**' (with **to**):

- We were made to wait** for two hours. (= They **made us wait** ...)

homework

7 Rephrase the following using the *infinitive* or the *-ing* form, as in the example.

1 You have to eat your carrots.

I want ... *you to eat your carrots.* .....

2 I must exercise more often.

I want .....

3 She has to take her medicine every day.

The doctor wants .....

4 I saw him give you the letter.

I remember .....

5 He has to talk to me politely.

I want .....

6 I mustn't go to bed late.

I don't want .....

7 We visited Sue last weekend.

I remember .....

8 Sarah sang that song last week.

I remember .....

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

- begin, continue, intend, start + to infinitive or -ing form. *She began crying/to cry.* However, we never have two -ing forms together. *The days are beginning to get shorter.*
- advise, allow, encourage, permit, recommend, 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. *He advised us to leave early.* (object) *We were advised to leave early.* (passive) *We advise leaving early.* (no object)
- need, require, want are followed by to -infinitive, the -ing form or the passive infinitive. *You need to polish your shoes.* *Your shoes need polishing.* *Your shoes need to be polished.*

## Need to ... and need -ing

I **need to do** something = it is necessary for me to do it:

- I **need to get** more exercise.
- He **needs to work** harder if he wants to make progress.
- I don't **need to come** to the meeting, do I?

Something **needs doing** = it needs to be done:

- My phone **needs charging**.  
(= it needs to be charged)
- Do you think this jacket **needs cleaning**?  
(= ... needs to be cleaned)
- It's a difficult problem. It **needs thinking** about very carefully. (= it needs to be thought about)



## Help and can't help

You can say **help to do** or **help do** (with or without **to**):

- Everybody **helped to clean** up after the party. *or*  
Everybody **helped clean** up ...
- Can you **help me to move** this table? *or*  
Can you **help me move** ...

I **can't help doing** something = I can't stop myself doing it:

- I don't like him, but he has a lot of problems. I **can't help feeling** sorry for him.
- She tried to be serious, but she **couldn't help laughing**.  
(= she couldn't stop herself laughing)
- I'm sorry I'm so nervous. I **can't help it**.  
(= I can't help **being** nervous)



She **couldn't help laughing**.

# Verb + **-ing** or **to** ... 3 (like / would like etc.)

## Like / love / hate

When you talk about repeated actions, you can use **-ing** or **to** ... after these verbs.

So you can say:

- Do you **like getting** up early? *or* Do you **like to get** up early?
- Stephanie **hates flying**. *or* Stephanie **hates to fly**.
- I **love meeting** people. *or* I **love to meet** people.
- I don't **like being** kept waiting. *or* ... **like to be** kept waiting.
- I don't **like** friends **calling** me at work. *or* ... friends **to call** me at work.

*but*

(1) We use **-ing** (*not to* ...) when we talk about a situation that already exists (or existed).

For example:

- Paul lives in Berlin now. He **likes living** there. (He **likes living** in Berlin = He lives there and he likes it)
- Do you **like being** a student? (You are a student – do you like it?)
- The office I worked in was horrible. I **hated working** there. (I worked there and I hated it)

(2) There is sometimes a difference between **I like to do** and **I like doing**:

**I like doing** something = I do it and I enjoy it:

- I **like cleaning** the kitchen. (= I enjoy it.)

**I like to do** something = I think it is a good thing to do, but I don't necessarily enjoy it:

- It's not my favourite job, but I **like to clean** the kitchen as often as possible.

Note that **enjoy** and **mind** are always followed by **-ing** (*not to* ...):

- I **enjoy cleaning** the kitchen. (*not* I enjoy to clean)
- I **don't mind cleaning** the kitchen. (*not* I don't mind to clean)

If a preposition (**in/for/about** etc.) is followed by a verb, the verb ends in **-ing**:

	<i>preposition</i>	<i>verb (-ing)</i>	
Are you interested	<b>in</b>	<b>working</b>	for us?
I'm not good	<b>at</b>	<b>learning</b>	languages.
Sue must be fed up	<b>with</b>	<b>studying.</b>	
What are the advantages	<b>of</b>	<b>having</b>	a car?
Thanks very much	<b>for</b>	<b>inviting</b>	me to your party.
How	<b>about</b>	<b>meeting</b>	for lunch tomorrow?
Why don't you go out	<b>instead of</b>	<b>sitting</b>	at home all the time?
Amy went to work	<b>in spite of</b>	<b>feeling</b>	ill.

You can also say 'instead of **somebody** doing something', 'fed up with **people** doing something' etc. :

- I'm fed up with **people** telling me what to do.

Some more verbs with this structure:

<b>approve (of)</b>	He doesn't <b>approve</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>swearing.</b>
<b>decide (against)</b>	We have <b>decided</b>	<b>against</b>	<b>moving</b> to London.
<b>dream (of)</b>	I wouldn't <b>dream</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>asking</b> them for money.
<b>feel (like)</b>	Do you <b>feel</b>	<b>like</b>	<b>going</b> out tonight?
<b>insist (on)</b>	They <b>insisted</b>	<b>on</b>	<b>paying</b> for the meal.
<b>look forward (to)</b>	I'm <b>looking forward</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>meeting</b> her.
<b>succeed (in)</b>	Have you <b>succeeded</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>finding</b> a job yet?
<b>think (of/about)</b>	I'm <b>thinking</b>	<b>of/about</b>	<b>buying</b> a house.

You can also say 'approve of **somebody** doing something', 'look forward to **somebody** doing something' etc :

- I don't approve **of people killing** animals for fun.
- We are all looking forward **to Andy coming** home.



Note the use of the following prepositions + **-ing**:

**before -ing and after -ing:**

- Before going** out, I phoned Sarah. (*not* Before to go out)
- What did you do **after finishing** school?

You can also say '**Before I went** out ...' and '... **after you finished** school'.

**by -ing** (to say *how* something happens):

- The burglars got into the house **by breaking** a window and **climbing** in.
- You can improve your English **by reading** more.
- She made herself ill **by not eating** properly.
- Many accidents are caused **by** people **driving** too fast.

**without -ing:**

- We ran ten kilometres **without stopping**.
- It was a stupid thing to say. I said it **without thinking**.
- She needs to work **without** people **disturbing** her. (*or ... without being* disturbed.)
- I have enough problems of my own **without having** to worry about yours.

Other verbs can be followed by different prepositions + -ing. For example:

☆ **by + -ing** (begin, close, end, finish (off/up), open, start (off/out))

□ Can you begin by *cleaning* the floors, and then do the windows?

☆ **on + -ing** or **on + object + -ing** (concentrate, count, depend, focus, insist, rely)

□ Clare insisted on *(Jack) wearing* a suit to the party.

☆ **of + -ing** or **of + object + -ing** (approve, hear, know, speak, talk, tell)

□ I don't approve of *(them/ their) hunting* animals for sport.

☆ **object + from + -ing** (deter, discourage, keep, prevent, prohibit, stop)

□ The noise from next door prevented me from *sleeping*.