

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	in	working	for us?
I'm not good	at	learning	languages.
Sue must be fed up	with	studying.	
What are the advantages	of	having	a car?
Thanks very much	for	inviting	me to your party.
How	about	meeting	for lunch tomorrow?
Why don't you go out	instead of	sitting	at home all the time?
Amy went to work	in spite of	feeling	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:

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