

What is the difference
between

infinitive

and

-ing form?



The -ing form is used:

1. As a noun in the function of the subject.



Exercising is a good for your health.

The -ing form is used:

2. After the verbs:

admit

fancy

prevent

appreciate

go (for
activities)

quit

avoid

imagine

save

consider

mind

suggest

continue

miss

deny

practise



You should avoid eating junk food.

The -ing form is used:

3. After the verbs:

love

like

enjoy

prefer

dislike

hate

to **express** general preference.



Jane prefers living alone.



Jack enjoys playing his guitar.

The -ing form is used:

4. After expressions such as:

be busy

there's no point (in)

it's no use

can't stand

it's no good

have difficulty (in)

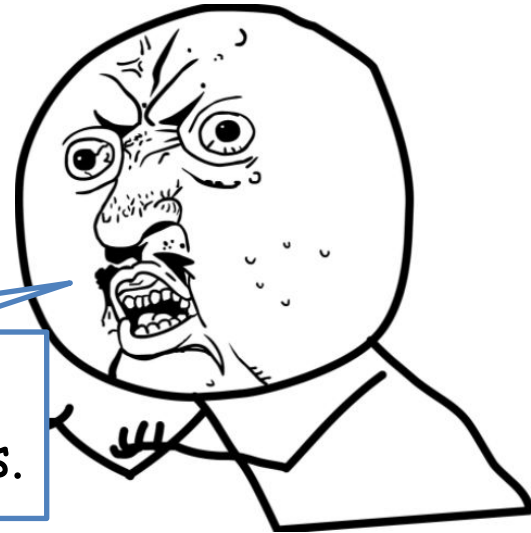
it's (not) worth

have trouble

what's the use of

can't help

I have difficulty (in)
understanding what he says.



The -ing form is used:

4. After the verbs: **spend** **waste** **lose** (time, money)



He spends hours reading every day.

The -ing form is used:

5. After the preposition **to** with verbs and expressions such as:

look forward to

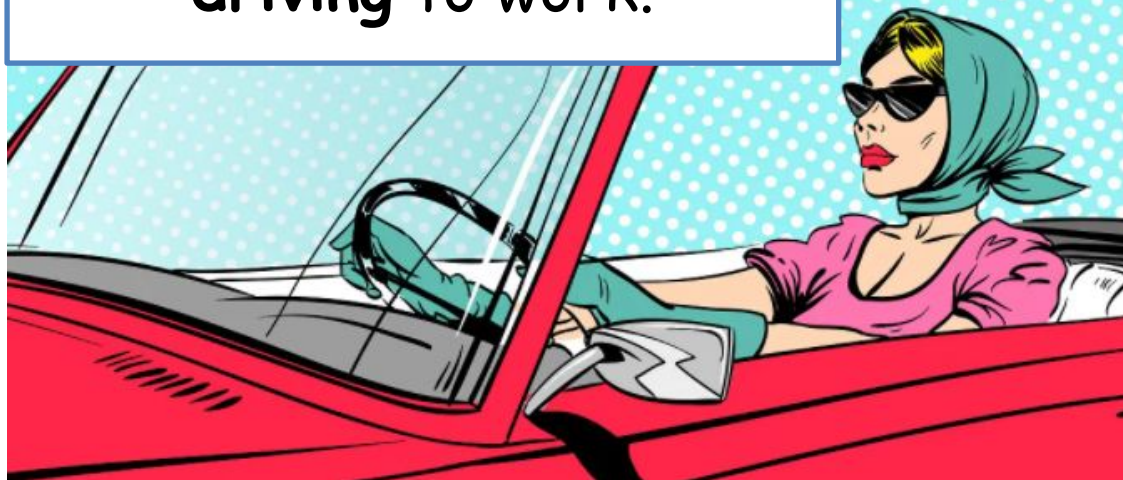
be used to

in addition to

object to

prefer (doing sth to sth else)

She prefers **walking** to **driving** to work.



The -ing form is used:

6. After other prepositions.

I was thinking of calling John.

He apologised for being late.



The -ing form is used:

7. After the verbs:

watch

listen to

notice

feel

see

hear



I **saw** Pam **waiting** for the bus.
(I only saw part of the action.)

BUT we use the infinitive without **to** with **hear**, **listen to**, **notice**, **see**, **watch** and **feel** to describe a completed action.



I didn't **see** Pam **get on** the bus. (The action was completed.)

Note: be/get used to + -ing form

I'm used to working very hard. BUT I used to work very hard. (I don't any more.)

The to-infinitive is used:

1. To express purpose.

She went to the supermarket to buy some cheese.



The to-infinitive is used:

2. After certain verbs that refer to the future:

agree

promise

appear

refuse

decide

want

expect

hope

plan

I want you to come.

I expect him to be here.



The to-infinitive is used:

3. After

would like

would prefer

would love

to express a specific preference.



I would love to come to your party!



The to-infinitive is used:

4. After adjectives which describe **feelings/emotions** (happy, glad, sad, etc), express **willingness/unwillingness** (eager, reluctant, willing, etc) or refer to a person person's **character**, and the adjectives **lucky and fortunate** (clever, kind, etc)

NOTE: With adjectives that refer to character, we can also use an impersonal construction.
It was kind of you to lend me your laptop.

I was sad to hear you were not feeling well!

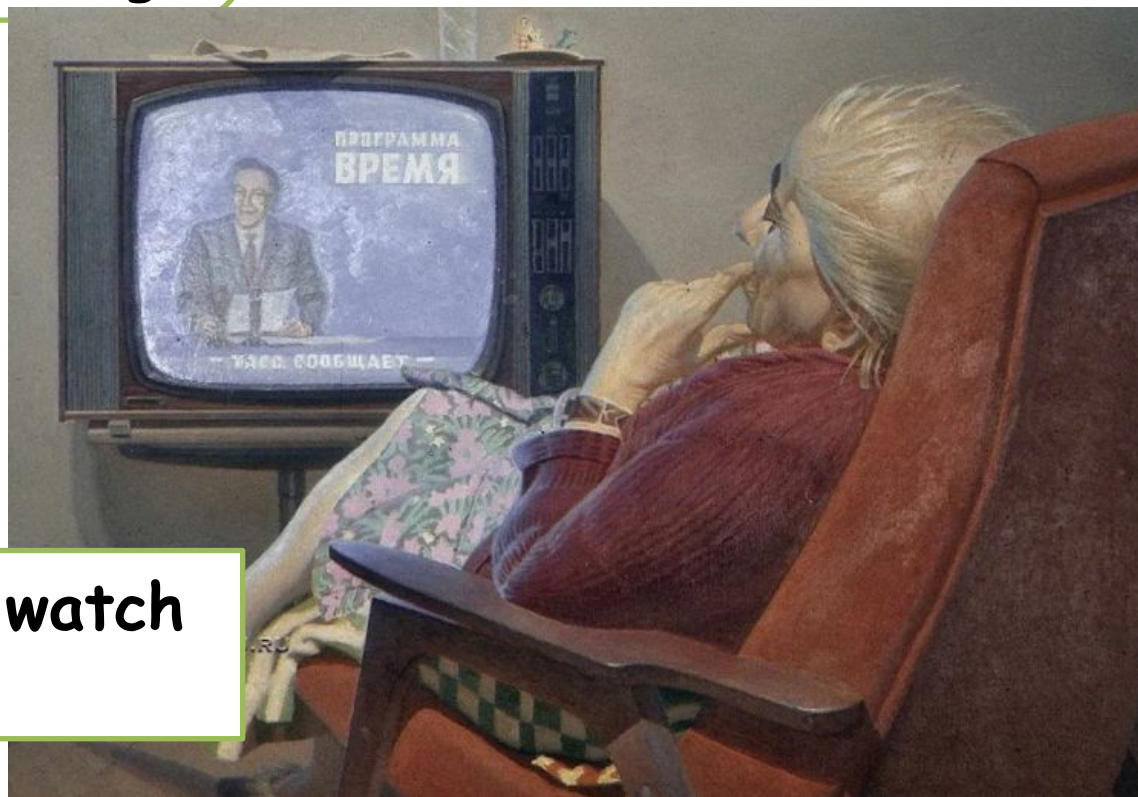


The to-infinitive is used:

5. After

too

enough



She's old enough to watch the film.

The to-infinitive is used:

6. With it + be + adjectives/noun

It was moving to see him again after so many years.



The to-infinitive is used:

7. After **be + first/second/next/last** etc.

She was the first person to call me on my birthday.



The to-infinitive is used:

8. After verbs and expressions such as **ask** **decide**

explain

find out

learn

want

want to know

when they are followed by a question word.

She asked me when to get the tickets.



The to-infinitive is used:

9. In the expressions

To tell you the truth

To be honest

To sum up

To begin with

Note: If two to-infinitives are linked by **and/or**, the **to** of the second infinitive is omitted.

I would love to go to Paris and see the museums.



To sum up, the government needs to take measures to deal with unemployment more effectively.

The to-infinitive is used:

10. After certain nouns.



It's my honour to take part
in this festival.

11. With so + adjectives + as.



Would you be so kind as to
help me with the door?

The to-infinitive is used:

12. With 'only' expressing an unsatisfactory result.



She drove all the way to the mall **only to find** it was closed.

13. In the expressions **for + noun/pronoun + to-inf.**



It was very unusual **for John to speak** so rudely.

The to-infinitive is used:

14. **Dare** expressing "having the courage to do something" is used with an infinitive with or without **to**.



I don't dare (to) tell him the truth.

Dare expressing a threat, a warning or anger, is used with an infinitive without **to**.

Don't you dare talk to me like that.

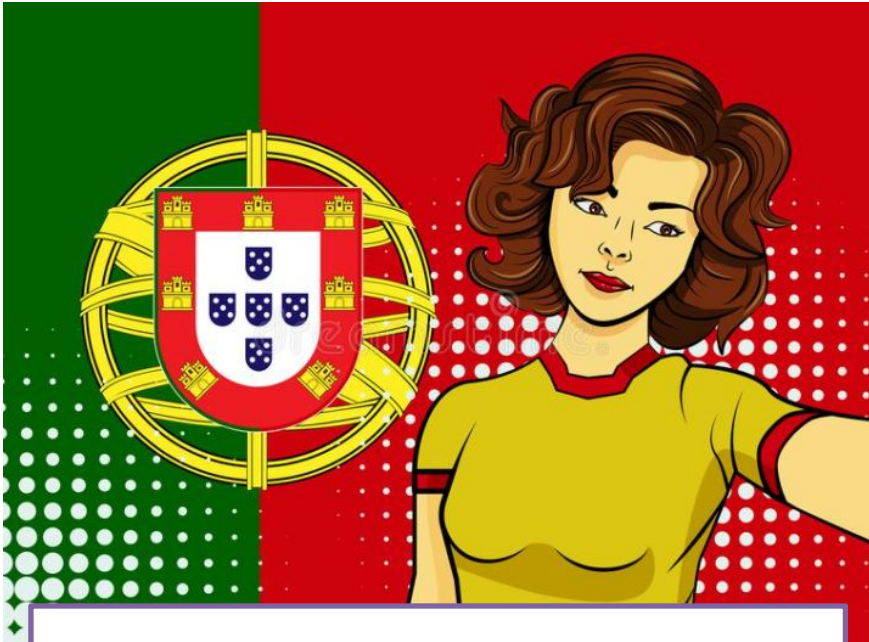
Dare expressing a challenge is used with a **to-infinitive**.

I dare you to dive into the sea from the cliff.

The infinitive without to

(also called bare infinitive)

1. After **Modal verbs**.



Sally can speak
Portuguese fluently

2. After the verbs **let, make, see, hear and feel**.



They let him travel on his
own.

The infinitive without to

BUT

1. We use **to-infinitive** after **be made, be heard, be seen, etc** (passive form).

He was **seen to steal** goods from the greengrocer's.

NOTE:

2. When **see, hear** and **watch** are followed by an **-ing form**, there is no change in the passive.

I **heard her crying** in her room.

She was **heard crying** in her room.



The infinitive without to

3. After **had better** and **would rather**.

You **had better** put a jacket on.

NOTE:

Help can be followed by either the **to-infinitive** or the **infinitive without to**.

She **helped me (to) carry** the desk.



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

1.

begin

continue

intend

start



She began talking/to talk.

~~She is beginning talking/to talk.~~

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

2.

advise

allow

encourage

permit

require

+ object + to-inf

He advised me to stay indoors.



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

3.

advise

allow

encourage

permit

require

+ -ing form



He advised taking two tablets.

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

4.

be advised

be allowed

be encouraged

be permitted

be required

+ to-inf

I was advised to take two tablets.



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

5.

need

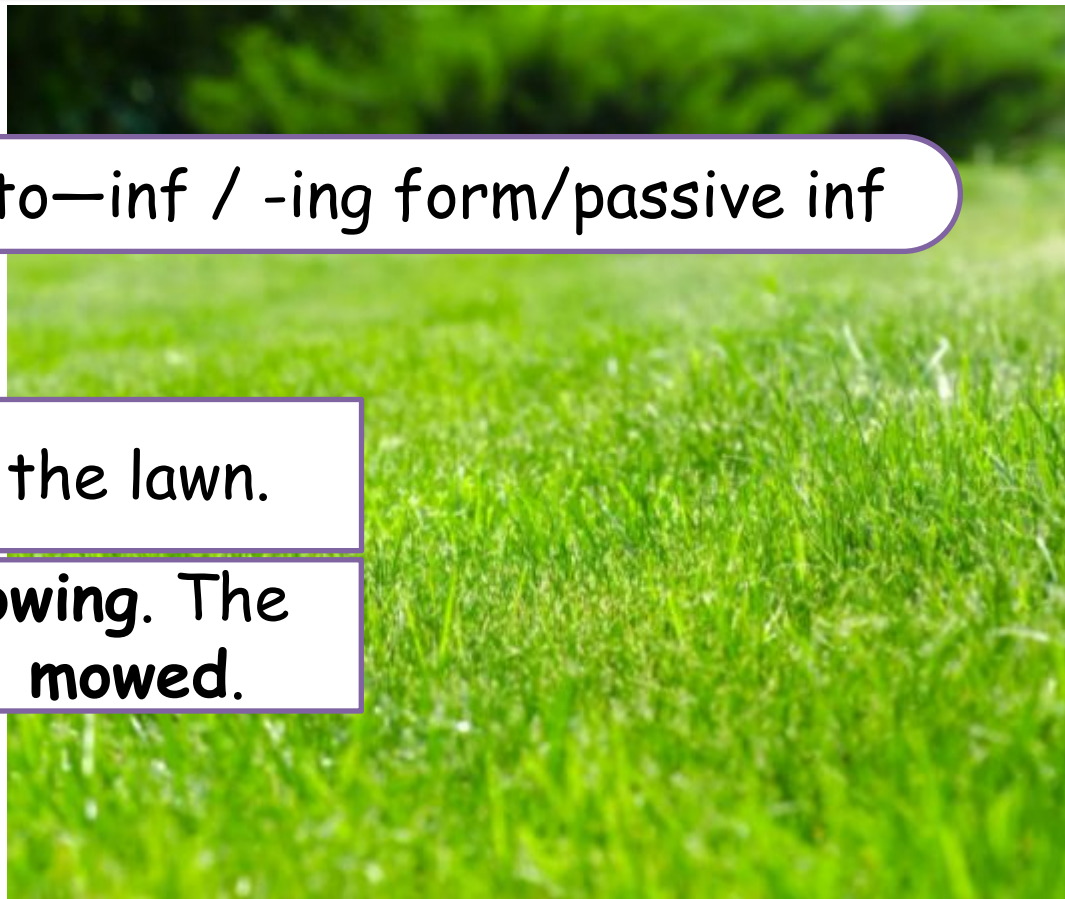
require

want

+ to-inf / -ing form/passive inf

You **need to mow** the lawn.

The lawn **needs mowing**. The lawn **needs to be mowed**.



Expressing Preference

1. To express **general preference** we use:

I prefer + noun/-ing + to + noun/-ing

I prefer vegetables to meat.

I prefer painting to drawing.

I prefer + to-infinitive + rather than + bare infinitive

I prefer to go out rather than stay at home on a Saturday.

Expressing Preference

1. To express **specific preference** we use:

I'd prefer + to-infinitive (+ rather than + bare inf)

I'd prefer to go to a restaurant (rather than eat in).



Expressing Preference

2. To express specific preference we use:

I'd prefer + noun (+ rather than + noun)

Would you like some tea? -
I'd prefer a glass of water,
thank you.



Expressing Preference

3. To express **specific preference** we use:

I'd rather + bare infinitive (+ than + bare inf)



I'd rather go to the concert than stay at home.