

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)

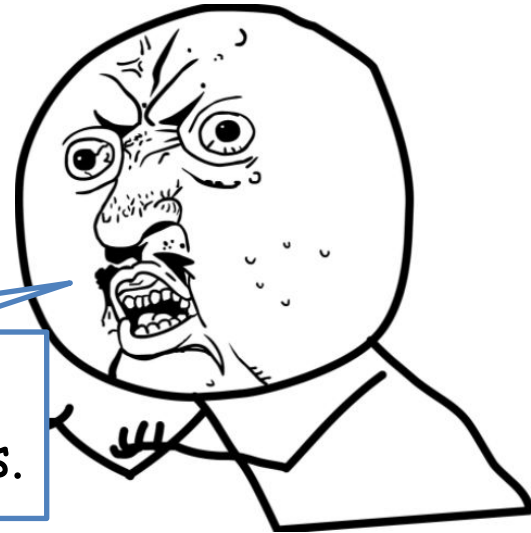
it's (not) worth

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

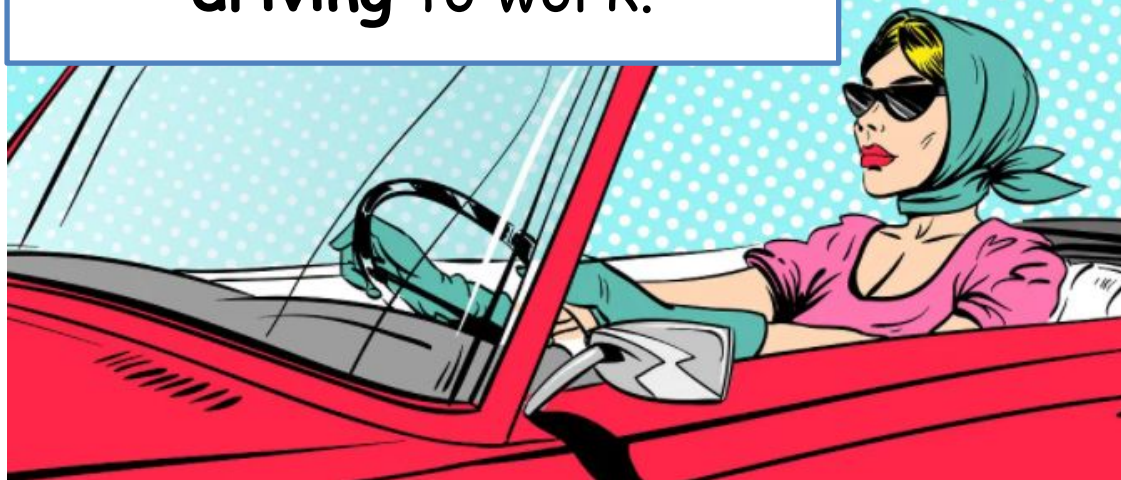
be used to

in addition to

object to

prefer (doing sth to sth else)

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



The -ing form is used:

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.)

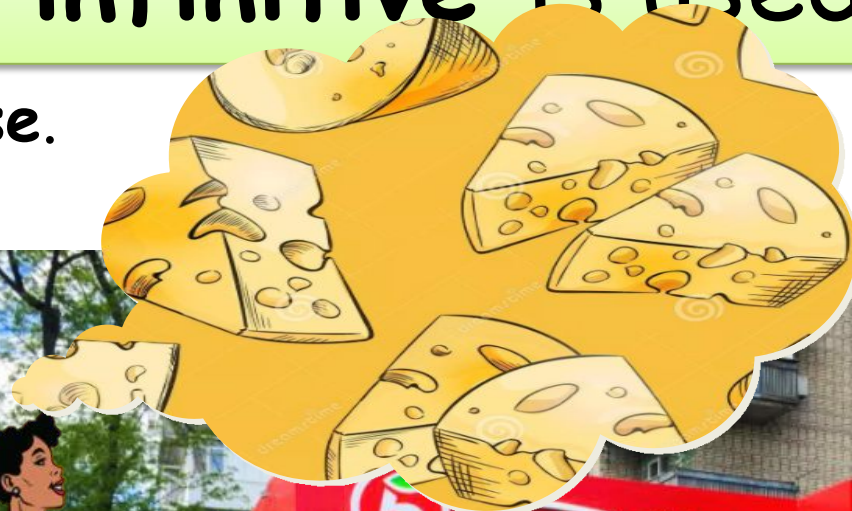
Note: be/get used to + -ing form

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.

