

Infinitive or -ing

Verb + -ing :

admit, avoid, can't help /laughing/, carry on, consider, delay, deny, dislike, can't stand .enjoy, fancy, finish, give up, go on, imagine, involve, keep on, mind, miss, postpone, practise, put off, risk, suggest

Examples:

He tried to avoid **answering** my question.

I don't fancy **going** out this evening.

Have you ever considered **going** to live in another country?

When I'm on holiday, I enjoy **not having** to get up early.(negative form!)

She wants to go on/carry on **working**.

Keep(on) **smiling!** 😊

NOTE: when talking about finished actions, you **can** say having done...

Examples: They admitted having stolen the money. They admitted stealing the money.

NOTE: with some verbs you can use the structure verb+somebody+-ing

Examples: I can't **imagine George riding** a motorbike.

Sorry to **keep you waiting** so long.

NOTE: after some verbs (especially admit, deny, suggest), you **can** also use **that**

Examples: they denied **that they had stolen** the money/ **stealing** the money.

verb + to:

afford, agree, aim, appear, arrange, ask, attempt, beg, claim, dare, decide, decide, deserve, enable, expect, fail, force, forget, help, hope, invite, learn, let, make, manage, offer, order, persuade, plan, pretend, promise, refuse, remind, seem, teach, tell, tend, threaten, want, warn

Examples: We decided **to take** a taxi home.

I decided **to help** him.

We promised **not to be** late (negative)

They seem **to have** plenty of money.

NOTE: we can also use a **continuous infinitive (to be doing)**, and a **perfect infinitive (to have done)**

Examples: Martin seems **to be enjoying** his new job.

You seem **to have lost** weight.

NOTE: after "dare" and "help" you can use infinitive with or without "to"

Examples: I wouldn't dare **(to) tell** him.

Can you help me **(to) carry** this bag?

! negative daren't + infinitive **without** "to"

I daren't **tell** him what happened.

! can't help ALWAYS with -ing! I **couldn't help laughing**.

NOTE: after some verbs you can use a question word + to
We asked **how to get** to the station.
I don't know **whether to apply** for the job or not.

NOTE: after have, let make you use an object + infinitive without "to"
Examples: His exam results **made him work** harder.
I **had her clean up** her bedroom before I **let her go** out.
! the **passive of make + to**: he **was made to work** harder.

NOTE: you cannot use **suggest** with the structure verb + object + to
Example: Jane **suggested** that I **should ask your** advice.

both -ing + infinitive:

begin, start, intend, continue, bother, love, like, hate, can't bear /**no difference in meaning**/
Examples: I **like swimming**. I **like to swim**.

difference in meaning:

stop + ing = give up the activity /he stopped smoking/
stop + inf. = intent /he stopped to smoke = with the aim to smoke/

advise, recommend, encourage, allow, permit, forbid:

verb + -ing /without an object/

Examples: I **recommend waiting**
They don't **allow parking** here.

verb + object + to:

I recommend **you** to wait
They don't **allow people to park** here.

remember + -ing = I **did** it and now I **remember** /I remember **posting** the letter/
remember - to... = **not to forget** or to realise /please **remember to post** the letter/

regret + -ing = I am sorry about **what I did** /I regret saying it/
regret + to... = I'm **sorry that I have to...** /We regret to inform you.../

go on + -ing = **continue** /He went on talking/
go on + to.. = do or say something new /After discussing it he went on to talk about economy/

try + -ing = **testing** /try pressing the button
try + to.. = **attempt, effort** /I tried to move the table/

need + -ing = something **needs to be done** /the floor needs cleaning/
need + to.. = it is **necessary** /I need to take more exercise/

NOTE: would is followed by infinitive: I would like to go.
I would like to have done something= I regret I couldn't do it