

*And in the long term? 'It just **keeps getting** better' for Mexico. (Global Business Magazine website)*  
*Customers **expect** UK exporters to **visit** the market regularly. (Economist website)*

### Verb + -ing

- Some verbs are followed by an *-ing* form. Some of the commonest verbs follow below:

*As manufacturers **consider automating** their distribution channels, they should not lose sight of the effectiveness of personal contact. (IndustryWeek website)*

*Auto manufacturers are concerned consumers will **postpone buying** cars until after next July, when the current 22% sales tax on autos is expected to fall. (Business Review Weekly website)*

*Van der Hoeve, CEO of Royal Ahold, **spends** 50 per cent of his time **travelling and getting onto** the sales floor as much as possible. As he explains: 'I usually get a good feel for the store as I walk around'. (Eurobusiness website)*

saying and thinking	<i>admit*, consider*, deny*, describe, imagine*, mention*, suggest*</i>
liking and disliking	<i>dislike, enjoy, fancy, (not) mind*</i>
phrasal verbs	<i>carry on, give up, keep on, put off</i>
phrase with can't	<i>can't bear, can't help, can't resist, can't face, can't stand</i>
other common verbs	<i>avoid, delay, finish, involve, keep, miss, postpone, practise, risk</i>
common phrases	<i>It's not worth ..., spend/waste time/money ...</i> <i>It's no use/good ..., There's no point (in) ...</i>

- Some of the verbs in the list can also be followed by a noun. These include: *admit, deny, imagine, suggest, dislike, enjoy, fancy, keep, mind, practise.*

*The Minister **admitted taking** a bribe. and The Minister **admitted his mistake.***  
*What do you **fancy doing** this evening? and I **fancy** a nice, cold **beer.***

The group of verbs with *can't* can also be followed by a noun.

*I **can't bear** avant-garde **jazz.***

- We use *mind* in questions and negative sentences.

A: Do you **mind waiting** a moment?

B: No, I **don't mind.**

- Go* and *come* plus *-ing* form are often used for sports and outside activities.

*I often **go skiing** in the winter.*

*Do you want to **come shopping** with me?*

- Some verbs and verb phrases have *to* as a preposition. These include: *look forward to, object to, be used to, get used to, respond to.* Prepositions are always followed by the *-ing* form.

*I'm **looking forward to seeing** you next week. (NOT ~~to see~~)*

*After a few months in the UK I **got used to driving** on the left. (NOT ~~to drive~~)*

### Verb + to + infinitive

- Some verbs are followed by *to* + infinitive.

*'PCCW has openly stated that it **wishes to become** the biggest broadband player in Asia,' says Richard Ferguson, a telecom analyst in Hong Kong. 'That means it cannot **afford to stand still.**' (Asiaweek website)*

*'And by working together with the guys at IBM, Kodak and so on, we're actually **managing to improve** the local supply base for all of us.' says Jaime Reyes, head of Hewlett-Packard's printer operations. (Global Business Magazine website)*

plans and decisions	<i>aim, arrange, choose, decide*, intend, plan*, prepare</i>
expectations	<i>demand*, deserve, expect*, hope*, want, wish*, would like</i>
promises and refusals	<i>fail, guarantee, offer, promise*, refuse, threaten</i>
other common verbs	<i>agree*, can/can't afford, learn*, manage, pretend*, seem*, tend, train, wait</i>

- Note that verb + *to* + infinitive is also used in these cases:

See units 28

1 To explain why we do something (the 'infinitive of purpose')  
*I'm calling **to find out** if you stock spare parts.* (NOT ~~for to find out~~)

2 After a question word

*Can you show me **how to get on** to the Internet on this computer?*

See units 9, 11, 12, 18

3 With *used to*, *be going to*, *be able to*, *be allowed to*, *have to*, *need to* and *ought to*.

### Verb + object + *to* + infinitive

- The following verbs are followed by an object + *to* + infinitive.

*advise\*, allow, ask, cause, encourage, expect, forbid, force, help, invite, order, pay, prefer, persuade, remind\*, teach\*, tell\*, train, want, warn\**

*Russia will **ask the Paris Club of creditors to postpone** the signing of bilateral agreements on the repayment of debt.* (Delovoj Peterburg website)

*Li also **persuaded four banks, including HSBC Holdings and Bank of China, to lend** him \$11 billion, a record in Hong Kong.* (Asiaweek website)

### Make and let

- After *make* and *let* we use the bare infinitive without *to*.

*I **made** them **check** everything very carefully.* (NOT ~~I made them to check~~)

*They **let** us **have** all these free samples.* (NOT ~~They let us to have~~)

### Verb + *that* clause

- The verbs marked with an asterisk\* in sections A, B and C can also be followed by a *that* clause. In everyday speech we can leave out the word *that*.

*I suggested **speaking** to Eliza about it.*

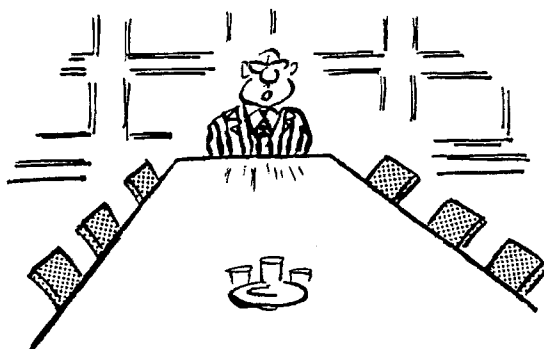
*I suggested **(that) we could** speak to Eliza about it.*

*We decided **to cancel** the meeting.*

*We decided **(that) we would cancel** the meeting.*

*They told us **to wait**.*

*They told us **(that) we should wait**.*



*"Gentlemen, I've called this meeting to discuss absenteeism."*

## 20 Verb + -ing or infinitive 2

### Example 1

The 21st century may see the emergence of a kind of 'welfare capitalism', in which corporations **try to recruit** and **retain** employees by providing services that in another era were provided by government agencies or families:  
(Business Week website)

### A Verb + -ing or infinitive: change in meaning

- Some verbs can be followed by *-ing* or *to* + infinitive and the meaning of the verb changes.
- REMEMBER AND FORGET We use *remember/forget doing* for memories of the past (the action happens before the remembering). We use *remember/forget to do* for actions someone is/was supposed to do (the remembering happens before the action).
 

<i>I definitely <b>remember posting</b> the letter.</i>	post	←	remember
<i>I must <b>remember to post</b> the letter.</i>	remember	→	post
<i>I'll never <b>forget flying</b> into Taipei airport.</i>	flying	←	forget
<i>Sorry, I <b>forgot to turn off</b> the lights.</i>	forget	→	turn off
- REGRET We use *regret doing* when we are sorry about something that happened in the past.
 

*I **regret saying** no to the job in Paris.*

We use *regret to inform/to tell* when we are giving bad news.

*I **regret to inform** you that we are unable to ...*
- TRY We use *try doing* when we do something and see what happens. We use *try to do* when we make an effort to do something, but don't necessarily succeed.
 

*I'll **try talking** to him and maybe he'll change his mind.* (I'll do it and see what happens)

*I'll **try to talk** to him but I know he's very busy today.* (I may not be successful)

*Last September, Breuer **tried to negotiate** a cost-cutting merger of Deutsche's and Dresdner's retail operations. However, he was unsuccessful.* (BusinessWeek Online website)
- STOP We use *stop doing* when we end an action. We use *stop to do* when we give the reason for stopping.
 

*We **stopped buying** from that supplier.* (now we don't buy from them)

*I **stopped to buy** something for my wife.* (I stopped in order to buy something)
- MEAN We use *mean doing* when one thing results in or involves another. We use *mean to do* to express an intention.
 

*Globalisation **means being** active in every major market.* (= involves)

*I **meant to phone** you, but I forgot.* (= intended)
- GO ON We use *go on doing* when we continue doing something. We use *go on to do* when we move on to do something else.
 

*They **went on trading** even though they were nearly bankrupt.* (= did the same thing)

*After leaving IBM he **went on to start** his own company.* (= did something else)

### Example 2

### B Verbs of perception

- Verbs of perception include: *feel, hear, listen to, notice, see, watch*. These verbs can be followed by an object + *-ing* or a bare infinitive (without *to*) and the meaning of the verb changes.
- If we see or hear only part of the action, or it continues, we use the *-ing* form. If we see or hear the whole action from beginning to end, we use the bare infinitive without *to*. Compare:
 

<i>I <b>saw her giving</b> her presentation.</i>	(I saw part of the presentation)
<i>I <b>saw her give</b> her presentation.</i>	(I saw the whole presentation)
<i>I <b>heard the machine making</b> a strange noise.</i>	(I heard the noise and it continued)
<i>I <b>heard the machine make</b> a strange noise.</i>	(I heard the noise and it stopped)

### Verb + -ing or infinitive: little change in meaning

- Some verbs can be followed by *-ing* or *to + infinitive* and there is little change in meaning.

These include: *begin, continue, intend, start*.

What do you **intend doing/to do** about it?

*In the second quarter, when the market **began to go down**, we **began selling**, dropping our equity position in the fund to around 70% and holding the remainder in cash. This way, I was able to minimize the impact of the downturn. (Asiaweek website)*

*The number of German jobless **continued to fall** in February. (Wall Street Journal website)*

- We do not usually have two *-ing* forms together.

It **was starting to get** dark. (NOT ~~starting getting~~)

*The business community is again **starting to pay** very close attention to the country's economic health. (Global Business Magazine website)*

- The verbs *like, love, prefer, hate* can be followed by either form. *To + infinitive* suggests something is a good/bad idea. The *-ing* form shows your feelings.

*I **like to do** my tax returns early, but I **don't like doing** them.*

When we use the modal *would* with these verbs we must use *to + infinitive*.

*I'd **prefer to do** it myself, if you don't mind.*

*Like* followed by *to + infinitive* can mean that we do something because we think it is a good idea, even though we don't enjoy it.

*I **like to write** several drafts before I write the final report.*

### Passive forms: -ing or infinitive

- Unit 19 gave lists of verbs that are followed by either an *-ing* form or *to + infinitive*. Only the active forms were given.

- The passive form of 'verb + *-ing*' is verb + *being* + past participle.

*If the share price falls any more we **risk being taken over** by a larger company.*

- The passive form of 'verb + *to + infinitive*' is verb + *to be* + past participle.

*I think I **deserve to be given** a pay rise.*



"Actually, the boss is away on vacation - but he likes to remind everyone he's still in charge."