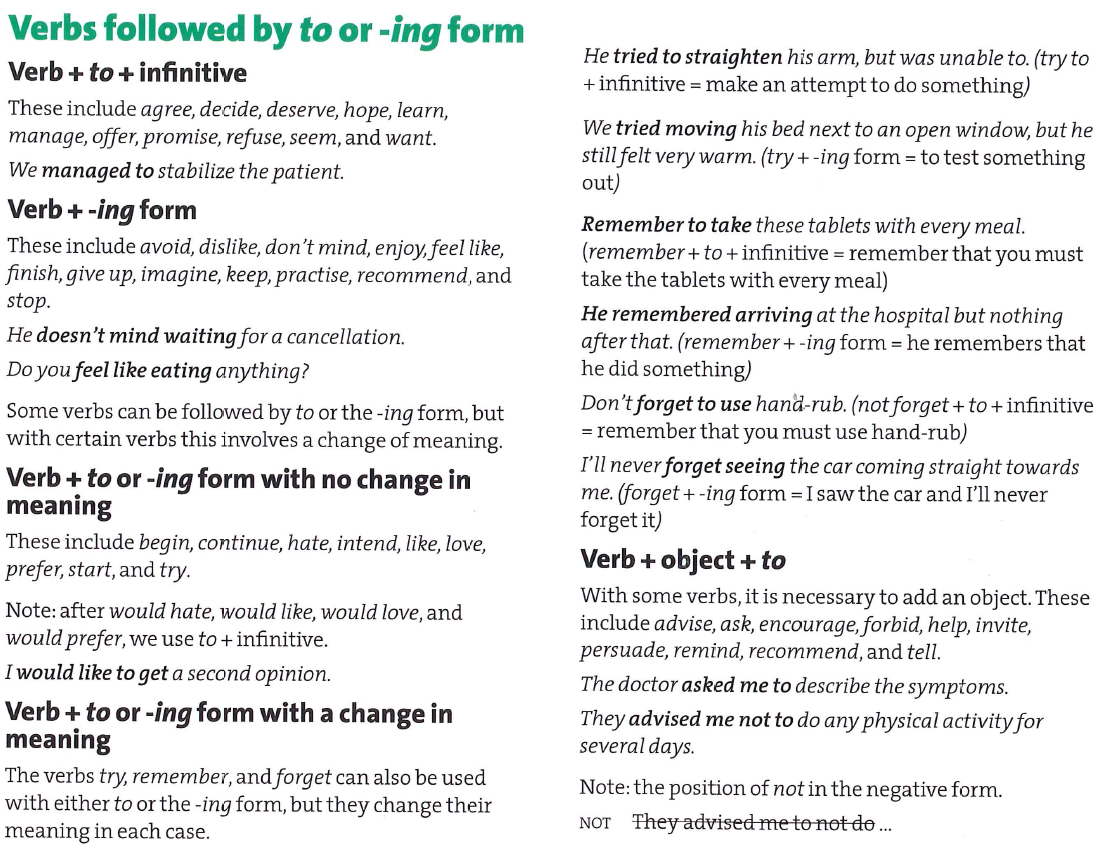


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**Read the text and fill in only one most suitable word into each space.**

Ear infections are very common \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ young children. In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, roughly 70 % of all children have at least one ear infection before the age of six. Most of these infections happen in the middle ear, which is a small place located right behind the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The use of antibiotics to treat ear infections has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ questioned recently by those who argue that some ear infections, like colds, are caused by viruses rather \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bacteria. Antibiotics are not effective \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ treating viruses, and many people are justifiably concerned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the overuse of antibiotics. Studies have also shown \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about 30 % of middle ear infections do not heal without the use of antibiotic treatment. This means that about 70 % of infections go away on their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . The difficulty is that it is impossible, just by examining the ear even by using otoscope, to identify the 30% of children who will need the antibiotics. Identifying these children is important, as untreated inflammation of the middle ear, so called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ media has the potential to develop serious infectious complications and lead to hearing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Today, in certain situations, such as an older child with a mild infection (red \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ membrane, without any fluid in the middle ear), some physicians may choose not to treat the inflammation right away with antibiotics. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , if the middle ear is filled with fluid which does not drain naturally through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tube or if there is persistent discharge from the ear, antibiotics will be prescribed.