

VERB PATTERNS

BLOCK I

Look at the following examples and focus on the verb **to COOK**. From the grammar point of view, what do these sentences have in common and what is different about them?

- I need **to cook** something now.
- I enjoy **cooking**.
- I can't **cook**.

Every time there is a cluster of two¹ verbs² in a sentence we need to determine the form of the *second* verb. The second verb exemplified in the following examples by the verb **to PAY** can take the following forms.

A.	full infinitive	I <i>want</i> to pay now. (WANT + PAY)
B.	ing form	She <i>dislikes</i> paying by credit card. (DISLIKE + PAY)
C.	bare infinitive	We all must pay taxes. (MUST + PAY)

Below is the selection of *first* verbs which determine the form of the *second* verb in three different ways suggested above.

A) VERBS FOLLOWED BY FULL INFINITIVE

- afford /ə'fɔ:(r)d/ - *We can't **afford to buy** another car.*
- agree /ə'ɡri:/ - *The school **agreed to send** the students on course.*
- arrange /ə'reɪndʒ/- *They **arranged to go** shopping together.*
- decide /di'saɪd/ - *They **decided to accept** the offer.*
- deserve /di'zɜ:(r)v/ - *They **didn't deserve to lose** the match.*
- forget /fə(ɹ)'ɡet/ - *She **forgot to ring** him.*
- hope /həʊp/ - *They **hoped to win** the match.*
- learn /lɜ:(r)n/ - *She **learnt to drive** a left-hand drive car very fast.*
- manage /'mænɪdʒ/ - *They **managed to escape** the fire.*
- need /ni:d/ - *She **needs to revise** before the exam.*
- offer /'ɒfə(ɹ)/ - *They **offered to help** me with the garden.*
- plan /plæn/ - *They **didn't plan to stay** in England for the rest of their lives.*
- pretend /pri'tend/ - *She **pretended to know** all the answers.*
- promise /'prɒmɪs/ - *He **promised not to open** the present until Christmas.*
- refuse /rɪ'fju:z/ - *She **refused to pay** for the meal.*
- seem /si:m/ - *They **seemed to know** all the answers.*
- tend /tend/ - *We **tend to take** technology for granted.*
- threaten /'θret(ə)n/ - *He **threatened to kill** himself.*
- want /wɒnt/ - *She **doesn't want to retire**.*
- would like /wʊd/- *He **would like to join** us on our next trip.*
- would love /wʊd/- *She **would love to come** to our party.*

¹ There can be clusters of more than two verbs, e.g. *I hate having to get up early*, which are not included in this handout.
² There are situations when the first verb has an object, which we do not consider in this handout, e.g. *I wanted him to come*. *She didn't expect me to win*.

B) VERBS FOLLOWED BY –ING FORM

admit /əd'mɪt/ - *She **admitted telling** lies.*
 avoid /ə'vɔɪd/ - *He **avoids meeting** her.*
 consider /kən'sɪdə(r)/ - *He **briefly considered giving up** his job.*
 deny /di'naɪ/ - *She **denied stealing** the money.*
 dislike /dɪs'lʌk/ - *I **dislike expressing** my emotions.*
 enjoy /ɪn'dʒɔɪ/ - *I **enjoy travelling** by train.*
 finish /'fɪnɪʃ/ - *They **finished eating**.*
 keep (on) /ki:p/ - *Despite the noise, she **kept (on) talking**.*
 like /laɪk/ - *He **likes going** to parties with friends.*
 love /lʌv/ - *She **loves playing** the piano.*
 mind /maɪnd/ - *Would you **mind shutting** the door?*
 risk /rɪsk/ - *He **risked losing** his job.*

A/B) VERBS FOLLOWED BY -ING FORM OR FULL INFINITIVE WITHOUT CHANGE OF MEANING

begin /bɪ'gɪn/ *I **began doing** it. = I **began to do** it.*
 start /stɑ:(r)t/ *I **started writing** my diploma thesis. = I **started to write** my diploma thesis.*

TASK 1 Complete the gaps with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 They denied _____ the money when they were interviewed by the police. (STEAL)
- 2 I cannot afford _____ tonight. (GO OUT)
- 3 Stop _____ me questions, it's annoying. (ASK)
- 4 I refuse _____ any more questions which insult my family. (ANSWER)
- 5 He promised _____ the window broken in the storm. (REPAIR)
- 6 My memory is getting worse. I keep _____ things. (FORGET)
- 7 She has now finished _____ her children so they can go out and play with their friends. (DRESS)
- 8 Would you mind _____ the window? It's stuffy in here. (OPEN)
- 9 He threatened _____ the police if we did not leave his garden. (CALL)
- 10 His parents agreed _____ him with repaying the loan if he found a proper job. (HELP)

BLOCK II

A) VERBS FOLLOWED BY -ING FORM OR FULL INFINITIVE WITH THE CHANGE OF MEANING

A) With some verbs (e.g. *remember, regret*) the key to understanding the difference is the time sequence of the actions the two verbs represent

(1) *remember* (2) *to write* = remembering happens before writing

(2) *remember* (1) *writing* = remembering happens after writing

I regret to inform you that we are unable to offer you the job. = the speaker apologizes for bad news which he is going to deliver

I regret informing him about it. = in retrospect the speaker feels sorry about informing him

We (2) *stopped* (1) *eating*. = we were eating and then we stopped

We (1) *stopped* (2) *to eat*. = we stopped what we were doing and started eating

With the verb *to stop* the sentence very often contains two additional verbs which indicate the activity which was stopped (*walking*) and the activity which was started (*have something to eat*).

We (2) stopped (1) walking (3) to have something to eat.

B)

try to do sth = attempt to do, make an effort to do

try doing sth = try sth as an experiment

I tried to move the table but it was too heavy.

I didn't like the way the furniture was arranged, so I tried moving the table to the other side of the room. But it still didn't look right so I moved it back again.

Murphy, R. (2004). English Grammar in Use – third edition, p. 113. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 114

TASK 2 Complete the gaps with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

1 Please remember _____ the door when you go out. (LOCK)

2 A: You lent me some money a few months ago.

B: Did I? Are you sure? I don't remember _____ you any money. (LEND)

3 When you see Steve, remember _____ him my regards. (GIVE)

4 I believe that what I said was fair. I don't regret _____ it at all. (SAY)

5 She stopped _____ too many sweets because she wanted to lose weight. (EAT)

6 They had been playing for a very long time. Totally exhausted, they stopped _____ a rest. (HAVE)

7 A: Do you know how to start the photocopier?

B: Try _____ this button. (PRESS)

B) VERBS WITH A PREPOSITION ARE ALWAYS FOLLOWED BY –ING FORM

The following list is only illustrative. The exhaustive list is much longer, plus it contains numerous instances of passive voice constructions, e.g. *He was accused of stealing the money. He was prevented from entering Germany.*

accuse sb of doing sth /ə'kju:z/ - She **accused her partner of taking** all her money..

decide against doing sth /dɪ'saɪd/ - She **decided against moving** to Prague.

dream /dri:m/ about doing – He **dreams about playing** for the national team.

look forward to doing – I **look forward to meeting** him.

specialize /'speʃəlaɪz/ in doing – They **specialize in producing** best quality wine.

talk about doing – He **talks about getting** married.

thank sb for doing sth /θæŋk/ - I could not **thank** her enough **for rescuing** my dog.

think of doing – I **am thinking of applying** for this job.

TASK 3 Complete the following sentences with a suitable preposition.

- 1 I look forward _____ our skiing holiday in the Alps.
- 2 She insisted _____ talking to my boss about my family issues.
- 3 I apologize _____ not letting you know about the event.
- 4 She never thanked me _____ helping her.
- 5 She is thinking _____ quitting the school.
- 6 She decided _____ studying at Masaryk and chose Charles in Prague.
- 7 He accused her _____ not looking after their children properly.