

## Verbs + -ing or to ... 1

A Some verbs are followed by **-ing** and some are followed by **to ...** .

Verbs usually followed by **-ing**

admit	fancy	postpone
avoid	finish	risk
consider	imagine	stop
deny	keep (on)	suggest
enjoy	mind	

Verbs usually followed by **to ...** :

afford	fail	offer
agree	forget	plan
arrange	hope	promise
decide	learn	refuse
deserve	manage	threaten

B Some verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...** with a difference in meaning :

### remember

I **remember doing** something = I did and now I remember this.

You **remember doing** something *after* you have done it.

- I know I locked the door. I clearly **remember locking** it.  
(=I locked it, and now I remember this)
- He could **remember driving** along the road just before the accident, but he couldn't remember the accident himself.

I **remembered to do** something = I remembered that I had to do it, so I did it.

You **remember to do** something *before* you do it.

- I **remembered to lock** the door, but I forgot to shut the windows.  
(I remembered that I had to lock it, and so I locked it)
- Please **remember to post** the letter.  
(=don't forget to post it.)

### regret

I **regret doing** something = I did it and now I'm sorry about it.

- I now **regret saying** what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
- It began to get cold and he **regretted not wearing** his coat.

I **regret to say / to tell you / to inform you** = I'm sorry that I have to say / to tell you / to inform you

- (from a formal letter) We **regret to inform you** that we cannot offer you the job.

### go on

**Go on doing** something = continue doing the same thing:

- The president paused for a moment and then **went on talking**.
- We need to change. We can't **go on living** like this.

**Go on to do** something = do or say something new:

- After discussing the economy, the president then **went on to talk** about foreign policy.

The following verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...** :

begin	start	continue	intend	bother
So you can say:				

- |  |    |                                       |
|--|----|---------------------------------------|
| • It <b>has started raining</b>        | or | It <b>has started to rain</b> .       |
| • Peter <b>intends buying</b> a house. | or | Peter <b>intends to buy</b> a house.  |
| • Don't bother locking the door.       | or | Don't <b>bother to lock</b> the door. |

But normally we do not use **-ing** after **-ing**:

- It's **starting to rain**. (not ~~It's starting raining~~)