**Verb patterns**

1. **Verbs followed by a to-infinitive:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *afford* | *demand* | *like* | *pretend* |
| *agree* | *fail* | *love* | *promise* |
| *arrange* | *forget* | *manage* | *refuse* |
| *ask* | *hate* | *mean (= intend*) | *remember* |
| *begin* | *help* | *need* | *start* |
| *choose* | *hope* | *offer* | *try* |
| *continue* | *intend* | *plan* | *want* |
| *decide* | *learn* | *prefer* |  |

Examples:

I can’t **afford to go** on holiday.

It **began to rain.**

She **hopes to go** to university next year.

My mother never **learnt to swim.**

Did you **remember to ring** Nigel?

1. **Verbs followed by –ing**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *admit* | *deny* | *finish* | *mind* |
| *avoid* | *dislike* | *give up* | *miss* |
| *(can’t) help* | *enjoy* | *imagine* | *practise* |
| *(can’t) stand* | *fancy* | *involve* | *put off* |
| *consider* | *feel like* | *keep (on)* | *risk* |

Examples:

*I always* ***enjoy cooking.***

Not: I always enjoy to cook.

*We haven’t* ***finished eating*** *yet.*

Not: We haven’t finished to eat.

*She* ***keeps changing*** *her mind about the wedding.*

1. **Verbs followed by a to-infinitive or –ing (with the same meaning)**

*like*

*prefer*

*love*

*hate*

*start*

*begin*

*continue*

*get*

Examples:

Do you **like getting** up early? *or* Do you **like to get** up early?

I **prefer travelling** by car. *or* I **prefer to travel** by car.

Ann **loves dancing**. *or* Ann **loves to dance**.

I **hate being** late. *or* I **hate to be** late.

It **started raining**. *or* It **started to rain**.

1. **Verb + preposition (at, of, with, to) + -ing**

Exapmples:

We are **thinking of moving** house.

I am **looking forward to having** more free time.

* **Like doing vs. Would like to do**

**Like doing and love doing =** general preference

Example:I **like working** as a teacher.

**Would like to do =** isused to say that someone wants to do or have something

Example: I **would like to be** a teacher.

* **To-infinitive or -ing form with a change in meaning**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *go on* | *need* | *remember* | *try* |
| *mean* | *regret* | *stop* | *want* |

Compare:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **-ing form** | **to-infinitive** |
| Working in London **means leaving** home at 6.30. (Because I work in London, this is the result or consequence.) | I didn’t **mean to make** you cry. (I didn’t intend to make you cry.) |
| He **went on singing** after everyone else had finished. (He continued singing without stopping.) | She recited a poem, then **went on to sing** a lovely folk song. (She recited the poem first, then she sang the song.) |
| I **tried searching** the web and finally found an address for him. (I searched the web to see what information I could find.) | **I tried to email** Simon but it bounced back. (I tried/attempted to email him but I did not succeed.) |
| She **stopped crying** as soon as she saw her mother. (She was crying, and then she didn’t cry anymore.) | We **stopped to buy** some water at the motorway service area. (We were travelling and we stopped for a short time in order to buy some water.) |

* *Hate, like, love, prefer* with would or should

When *hate, like, love* and *prefer* are used with *would* or *should*, only the *to-*infinitive is used, not the *-ing* form:

Examples:

*She’****d love to get a*** *job nearer home.*

Not: She’d love getting a job nearer home.

***Would you like to have*** *dinner with us on Friday?*