**Verbs patterns**

**Verbs followed by a *to*-infinitive** Some verbs can be followed immediately 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* | Expect |

*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****.*

## Verbs followed by *–ing (-ing* but not *to-*infinitive) Some verbs are normally followed by the *-ing* form, not the *to-*infinitive:

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

*We haven’t****finished eating****yet.* Not: ~~We haven’t finished to eat~~.

### New subject before -*ing*

Some of these verbs (e.g. *can’t stand, dislike, imagine, involve, mind, miss, put off* and *risk*) can be used with a new subject before the *-ing* form (underlined in the examples below). If the new subject is a pronoun, it is in the object form (*me, him, her, us, them*):

*We just couldn’t****imagine****Gerry****singing****in public.* - ***Do****you****mind****me****being****here while you’re working?*

*I don’t want to****risk****him****losing****his job.*

### 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:

*She****’d******love******to****get a job nearer home.* - Not: ~~She’d love getting a job nearer home~~.

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

Some verbs can be followed by a *to-*infinitive or the *-ing* form, but with a change in meaning:

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

**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.) |
| *Remember* + the *-ing* form of a verb means ‘have a memory of something we did or of something that happened in the past’:  *I****remember******meeting****her once. It must have been about five years ago.*  Not: ~~I remember to meet her once~~ … | *Remember + to-*infinitive means that we don’t forget to do something:  ***Remember to****save your work often, just in case your computer crashes.* |
| We use *mean + -ing* form to talk about something necessary or the result of something:  *I’ll have to catch the 7 am train to Nottingham, which****means****getting up at 5 am.* (I need to get up at 5 am.) | We use *mean + to-*infinitive to say that we have or didn’t have the intention.  I didn’t mean to hurt you.  - Did you **mean to dial** this number? - I **meant to phone** your mom, but my cell didn't work. |
| **Regret + -ing form**  **Regret** is followed by an **-ing form** when it refers back to the past.  I **regret quitting** my job – it was a stupid thing to do. | **Regret + infinitive** is usually used in announcements of bad news.  We **regret to say** that we cannot help you at the moment. |

**Verbs followed by a direct object and a *to-*infinitive**

Some verbs are used with a direct object (underlined) followed by a *to*-infinitive. These verbs include:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *advise* | *invite* | *like* | *persuade* | *request* |
| *ask* | *forbid* | *prefer* | *teach* | *tell* |
| *challenge* | *instruct* | *need* | *recommend* | *want* |
| *choose* | *intend* | *order* | *remind* |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

*I****advised****him****to******get****a job as soon as possible.* - *Did Martin****teach****Gary****to play****squash?* - *They****want****me****to go****to Germany with them.*