

verb + full infinitive or -ing form with little or no change in meaning

Some verbs can be followed by the full infinitive or the -ing form with little or no change in meaning.

- ✓ We continued **to do** experiments in the lab all afternoon.
- ✓ We continued **doing** experiments in the lab all afternoon.

These include:

begin can't bear/stand continue hate intend love prefer start

verb + full infinitive or -ing form with a change in meaning

Some verbs can be followed by both the full infinitive and the -ing form. The choice depends on the meaning.

- ✓ I **remember** teachers at my school **hitting** children when they were naughty!
- ✓ Did you **remember to do** your homework?

These verbs include:

| | | |
|----------|--------|----------|
| consider | learn | remember |
| forget | like | stop |
| go on | mean | teach |
| imagine | regret | try |

See page 196 in the Reference Section for a full list of verbs and definitions.

prefer, would rather, had better

| Form | Use | Example |
|---|--|--|
| prefer + noun/-ing + to + noun/-ing | expressing general preference | I prefer biology to history. I prefer reading English texts to speaking in English. |
| would prefer + full infinitive + rather than (+ bare/full infinitive) | expressing specific preference (on this occasion) | I'd prefer to have the lesson on Wednesday rather than ([to] have it) on Tuesday, if that's possible. |
| would rather + bare infinitive + than (+ bare infinitive) | expressing general or specific preference | I'd rather have the lesson on Wednesday than (have it) on Tuesday, if that's possible. |
| would rather + sb + past simple/past continuous | expressing general or specific preference (about someone else) | I'd rather you didn't sit next to Brian. |
| had better + bare infinitive | giving advice | You'd better ask your parents if you can come on the school trip. |

Watch out!

- We don't usually say *I don't prefer...* We use *I prefer not to...*
- ✓ I **prefer not to** have music on when I'm studying.

infinitives of purpose

When we want to talk about someone's purpose (the reason they do something), we can use:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| the full infinitive | I went to university to avoid getting a job! |
| in order + full infinitive | I went to university in order to avoid getting a job! |
| so as + full infinitive | I went to university so as to avoid getting a job! |

Watch out!

- We can also express the same idea using *so (that)*.
- ✓ I went to university **so (that) I could avoid** getting a job!
- With a negative purpose we don't normally use the full infinitive on its own.
- ✓ I went to university **in order not to get** a job!
- ✓ I went to university **so as not to get** a job!
- ✗ I went to university **not to get** a job! —