

Verb + **-ing** or **to ...** 1 (remember/regret etc.)

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	

For examples, see Unit 53.

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

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

For examples, see Unit 54.

B

Some verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...** with a difference of meaning:**remember**I **remember doing** something = I did it 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 itself.

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)
- ☐ I must **remember to pay** the electricity bill. (= I must not forget to pay it)

regretI **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.
- ☐ Do you **regret not going** to college?

I **regret to say / to tell you / to inform** you = I'm sorry that I have to say (etc.):

- ☐ (*from a formal letter*) We **regret to inform** you that your application has been unsuccessful.

go on**Go on doing** something = continue with 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.

C

The following verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...** with no difference of meaning:**begin start continue intend bother**

So you can say:

- ☐ It **started raining**. or It **started to rain**.
- ☐ Andy **intends buying** a house. or Andy **intends to buy** ...
- ☐ Don't **bother locking** the door. or Don't **bother to lock** ...

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

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