

GRAMMAR

# Advanced verb patterns

**LEVEL**

Intermediate (B1)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B1\_3082G

**LANGUAGE**

English



## Learning outcomes

- I can distinguish between a wide variety of verbs followed by 'to' + infinitive or the -ing form.
- I can identify a variety of verbs whose meaning changes when followed by 'to' + infinitive or the -ing form.



# Warm-up

**Read** the box below and **answer** the questions.

Many magazines and newspapers include an **advice section** where readers write in and share their problems. The person who replies is sometimes called an **agony aunt**.

Have you heard the term **agony aunt** before?

Do you ever read this section in magazines or newspapers?

What kinds of problems do people usually ask for advice on?



## Reading (1/2)

3 Bridge Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
SA8 7YD

**Dear Julie,**

I've been having some problems with a friend of mine, Camila. We've known each other since we were at school and still meet every week. I enjoy spending time with her and it was always easy for me to open up to her.

That was until recently, when I started to notice that she tends to talk down to me a lot and keeps telling me to stop being so "sensitive". I've tried to tell her this upsets me, but she refuses to change. I'm at a loss as to what to say to her. It's as if she hears me talking but doesn't want to listen. Please help! What should I do about her?

**Pamela, 32 from Stoke-on-Trent**



Advice & Lifestyle Section  
Daily Arrow Newspaper  
PO BOX 567  
London, UK

1. **Read** Pamela's letter to Julie, the *Daily Arrow's* agony aunt.
2. **Explain** Pamela's problem in your own words.



## Reading (2/2)

Read Julie's response to Pamela's letter.

www.dailyarrow.co.uk/lifestyle/julieadvice

DAILY ARROW > Lifestyle > Your everyday problems answered by Julie

**Dear Pamela,**

Reading your letter reminded me of some advice my mother once gave me. I remember her telling me: whenever you are faced with a person who is reluctant to change, try applying one of the 3 Ls: *love them, leave them or lead them*.

*Love:* you need to love and accept them as they are. *Leave:* choose to walk away from them. *Lead:* use whatever power you have and focus on *leading* them to a solution. If you're struggling to *lead* on your own, consider asking others for help.

In our busy lives, we rarely stop to think: just what does this relationship bring me? Is it worth investing my time in? I'd advise you to take some time to reflect on these points. If you get stuck, remember to think of my mother and her 3 Ls.

Best of luck,

**Julie**



# Discuss

In **breakout rooms** or **together** as a class.

**What is Julie's advice?  
Do you agree with it or  
not? Why?**



**Should Pamela *love*,  
*leave* or *lead* in this  
situation? Why?**

## Verb + *to* + infinitive or -ing form?

Remember that in English some verbs are followed by **to + infinitive** and others are followed by **the -ing form**.

For example: We **think of doing** something but **decide to do** something.

We don't say: We think of ~~to do~~ something or we decide ~~doing~~ something.



*I **thought of speaking** to Camila about it, but in the end I **decided to keep** quiet!*





# Fill in the gaps

**Decide** if each verb should be followed by **to + infinitive** or in **the -ing form**.

- 1 Pamela enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ (*spend*) time with her friend Camila. Recently, however, she's noticed that Camila tends \_\_\_\_\_ (*talk*) down to her a lot.
- 2 Although Pamela has spoken to her about this, she says Camila refuses \_\_\_\_\_ (*change*).
- 3 The Agony Aunt tells Pamela she needs \_\_\_\_\_ (*accept*) Camila as she is, or she should choose \_\_\_\_\_ (*walk*) away from the friendship.
- 4 If Pamela finds herself struggling \_\_\_\_\_ (*think*) of a solution, Julia says she should consider \_\_\_\_\_ (*ask*) others for help.
- 5 Julia asks Pamela: is the relationship really worth \_\_\_\_\_ (*invest*) your time in or not?



# Verbs with a difference in meaning

**Read** the example sentences and the grammar explanation below.

Camila keeps telling me to **stop being** so sensitive!

We don't **stop to think**: what does this relationship mean to me?

- Some verbs can be followed by **to + infinitive** or **the -ing form**.
- These include *stop*, *remember* and *try*.
- Be careful, as their meaning can change!

- We use the **-ing form** after **stop** to indicate that an action or event is **no longer continuing**.
- We use **to + infinitive** after **stop** to indicate that someone **stops doing** something **in order to do** something else.



# Verbs with a difference in meaning

Match the verbs in bold with the correct **synonym**.

1 **Remember to** *think of my mother.*

a made an effort to; attempted to

2 **Try** *applying one of the three Ls!*

b Don't forget to

3 I've **tried to** *tell her this upsets me.*

c see the effect of; experiment with

4 I **remember** *her telling me some advice.*

d have the memory of



## Choose the correct sentence (1/2)

1 We attempted to fix our friendship, but we weren't able to.

a. We tried fixing our friendship.

b. We tried to fix our friendship.

2 John spoke to his friend last week. He hasn't forgotten that he spoke to him.

a. John remembers talking to his friend.

b. John remembered to talk to his friend.

3 I played tennis for a month, but I didn't like it so I went back to playing golf.

a. I tried playing tennis.

b. I tried to play tennis.



## Choose the correct sentence

4 The car stopped on the road. The driver needed to change his tyre.

a. He stopped to change his tyre

b. He stopped changing his tyre.

5 She needed to speak to her mother that evening. She didn't forget and she spoke to her.

a. She remembered speaking to her mother.

b. She remembered to speak to her mother.

6 My friend quit smoking last year. She hasn't smoked since then.

a. My friend stopped smoking.

b. My friend stopped to smoke.



# Giving advice

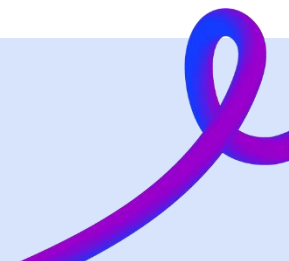


**Try** applying one of the three Ls.

**Consider** asking others for help.

We use these phrases to politely **give advice**.

What other phrases do you know for giving advice?





- I'd suggest...*  
*I'd advise you to...*  
*Consider...*

Try...  
Remember...  
Stop...







# End of the lesson

Idiom

***to think highly of someone or something***

**Meaning:** to have a very positive opinion of someone or something.

**Example:** I think very highly of Margaret's advice. She always has great suggestions!

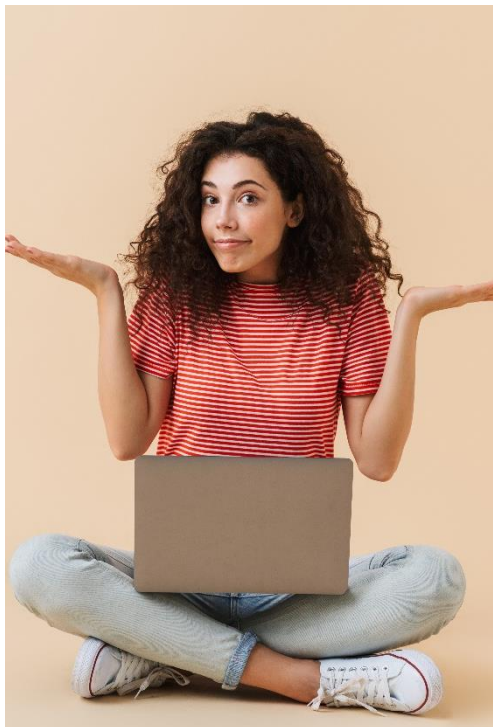


# Additional practice



# Categorise the verbs

**Categorise** the verbs below. Are they followed by *to* + infinitive or the *-ing* form?

**1**

want

**2**

enjoy

**3**

refuse

**4**

keep

**5**

need

**6**

be worth

**7**

consider

**8**

tend

***to* + infinitive*****-ing***



# Fill in the gaps

**Complete** the sentences using the correct combination of verbs in the box.

- 1 Yuri, please \_\_\_\_\_ that birthday card for your dad.
- 2 Ellen \_\_\_\_\_ so much coffee when she found out she was pregnant.
- 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ the letter a few days ago.
- 4 Have you \_\_\_\_\_ to podcasts to improve your French?
- 5 Marco was working hard but he \_\_\_\_\_ a cup of coffee at 11 a.m.

remember posting  
stopped to drink  
stopped drinking  
remember to post  
tried listening



# Infinitive or -ing verbs

**Complete** the questions with the correct form of the verb. **Discuss** the questions as a class.

**Do you struggle (open) up to people or not?**



**Who would you consider (ask) for help if you were worried about your work?**



# Complete the sentences

**Complete** these sentences so that they are true for you.

**In order to improve my English, I need...**

**In English, I find it difficult to...**

**It's not worth visiting... in my country.**

**I'm most interested in...  
in English lessons.**



# Answer key

- P. 8:**
1. spending, to talk
  2. to change
  3. to accept, to walk
  4. to think, asking
  5. investing
- P. 10:** 1.both possible and correct 2.c 3.a, 4.d
- P. 11-12:** 1.b, 2.a, 3.a, 4.a, 5.b, 6.a
- P. 18:** **to + infinitive:** need, want, refuse, tend  
**-ing form:** consider, keep, be worth, enjoy
- P. 19:**
1. remember to post
  2. stopped drinking
  3. remember posting
  4. tried listening
  5. stopped to drink





# Summary

## Review of verbs followed by **to + infinitive** or **-ing forms**:

- **to + infinitive**: *to need, to want, to refuse, to tend, to struggle*
- **-ing form**: *to consider, to keep, to be worth, to enjoy*

## Verbs where the meaning changes:

- Some verbs can be followed by **to + infinitive** or **the -ing form** including *stop, remember* and *try*.
  - Be careful, as the meaning can change!
- 
- **Stop to do sth.** = stop what I'm doing to do something else; **stop doing sth.** = no longer do sth.
  - **Remember to do sth.** = not forget to do something; **remember doing sth.** = have memory of sth.
  - **Try to do sth.** = make an effort or attempt to do something; **try doing sth** = experiment with sth.

## Phrases for giving advice

- *I'd advise you to...*      *Consider...*
- *I'd suggest...*      *Try...*



# Vocabulary

to need

to want

to refuse

to tend

to struggle

to enjoy

to consider

to keep

to be worth

to stop

to try

to remember

I'd advise you to...

I'd suggest...

