

GRAMMAR

More on verb patterns

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_2092G

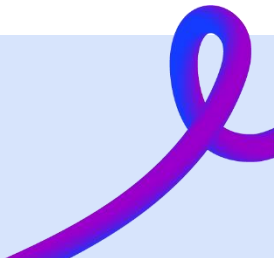
LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can distinguish between a variety of verbs taking the infinitive or the *-ing* form.
- I can accurately use the infinitive form of a verb in a range of sentences.



Warm-up

On the next slide, you're going to **read a blog post** about **two hen parties**. First, take two minutes to **discuss these questions** as a class:

What is a *hen party*?

Who usually organises it? What activities do people typically do for it?





Reading

Read the text about two bridesmaids' experience of **organising a hen party**.

What did you decide to do for your bride's hen party?



Sandra

Camila's hen party was quite easy to organise, actually! She said she wanted to do something 'memorable' and since I knew she was (and always has been!) a huge ABBA fan, I suggested going on a weekend away to Stockholm and visiting their museum there. Camila loved every second of it and now I'm helping with the wedding - I know exactly where to find the perfect dress!



Abbie

I had no clue what to do for Beth's hen do! She hates partying and is also pretty hard to please, so I needed to find an activity she'd enjoy doing that didn't centre around drinking! I'd planned to do a spa break, but it was far too expensive. Then, my boss recommended going for afternoon tea. Beth adored it - I was so relieved to see her with a smile on her face all afternoon!

Why did Sandra choose to go to Stockholm?

Why was planning Beth's party difficult for Abbie?

In the end, were both hen parties a success or not?



I had **no clue** what to do for Beth's **hen do**!

- What's a synonym for **no clue**?
- **Hen do** is the colloquial name for a hen party in British English.
- Do you know what it's usually called in North America?



Do you remember this word?

Discuss the questions below as a class.

What do we mean by the infinitive form of a verb?

Can you give five examples of infinitives?

Looking at verb patterns

Remember **verbs in English** can be followed by the **infinitive** or the **-ing form**. For example:



Camila said she wanted to do something 'memorable' for her hen party.



So I suggested going on a weekend away to Stockholm!

- Find a verb followed by the **infinitive**.
- Find a verb followed by the **-ing form**.





Looking at verb patterns

There are **almost no rules** behind the patterns. It's best to try and **learn them** by heart!



Beth hates partying, so I needed to find an activity...



...that she'd enjoy doing that didn't centre around drinking!

- Find a verb followed by the **infinitive**.
- Find two verbs followed by the **-ing form**.
- Can you find an example of a **preposition**?
- Do you remember what **form** of the verb always follows a preposition?



Followed by the infinitive or -ing form?

Go back to slide 4 and highlight all of these verbs in the text. Are they followed by the infinitive or -ing form?

1

to enjoy

2

to plan

3

to recommend

4

~~to suggest~~

5

to need

6

to decide

7

to hate

8

~~to want~~

9

to choose

10

would prefer

infinitive
to want

-ing form
to suggest



Choose the correct option

Complete the sentence using the correct form of the verb.

1 We knew that Camila wouldn't enjoy _____ pottery for her hen party!

a. to make

b. making

2 I needed _____ an activity for us that was both adventurous and memorable.

a. to find

b. finding

3 So, in the end we chose _____ to a country Camila had never been to before!

a. to travel

b. travelling



Choose the correct option

Complete the sentence using the correct form of the verb.

4 For Beth's hen party, her fiancé Paul suggested _____ a night club.

a. to hire

b. hiring

5 But we knew she would prefer _____ something a bit more relaxed and casual.

a. to do

b. doing

6 I liked the idea of _____ to a spa, but unfortunately it wasn't within our budget!

a. to go

b. going



In breakout rooms or as a class

Discuss the questions. If in breakout rooms, **share** one fun fact about your partner.

Which of the two hen party ideas would you enjoy more?



What are some pre-wedding rituals in your country?

More uses of the infinitive

We also use the **infinitive** with the verb **know**. Look at these examples:

I know exactly where to find the perfect wedding dress for Camila.

I had no clue what to do for Beth's hen do!

- Identify **two infinitives** in the sentences above.
- Look at the word that comes **directly before** each infinitive. What kind of word is it?
- What did each person know or not know?
- Complete the sentence for you:
 - *When I was younger, I didn't know...*



More uses of the infinitive

We also commonly use the **infinitive** when **giving a description**:

Camila's hen party was quite easy to organise, actually!

Beth is pretty hard to please, so I was relieved to see her with a smile on her face all afternoon!

- Find **three infinitives** in the examples above.
- Find **three adjectives** in the examples above.
- Who or what are the adjectives describing?
- Complete the sentence for you:
 - *At a party, it can be difficult...*



Fill in the gaps

Choose the correct form of the verb (in brackets) to complete the sentences. What do you think a **stag party** is?

- 1 Last year, I had to plan my friend Steve's stag party. I had absolutely no clue where _____ (*begin*) as usually I hate _____ (*organise*) these kinds of things.
- 2 We needed it _____ (*be*) something special, and at first, I wanted _____ (*take*) him abroad, but then I thought: it would be nice _____ (*stay*) at home here in Ireland.
- 3 Steve's always enjoyed _____ (*solve*) puzzles, so I decided _____ (*look for*) an Escape Room. It was a bit difficult _____ (*find*) a good one, but I managed it!
- 4 We planned _____ (*spend*) a few hours there, before _____ (*go*) for a meal in the evening. Steve loved the Escape Room – it was the perfect choice for him.
- 5 If I had to give some advice for this kind of party, I'd recommend _____ (*start*) your preparation early – especially if, like me, you're not particularly good at _____ (*plan*).

Discuss

Think about a party or an event you've organised. It can be any party, not just a hen or a stag party! **Try to use the following sentence starters** in your answers:



- *For the party, I wanted...*
- *We had no clue what/where/who...*
- *Luckily, a friend of mine suggested / recommended...*
- *In the end, I decided....*
- *We didn't need...*
- *I was very happy...*
- *Everyone enjoyed...*



End of lesson

Idiom

To pop the question

Meaning: to ask someone to marry you

Example: My boyfriend, Garry, finally *popped the question* last night. I'm so happy!



Additional practice



Match the sentences with the verb patterns

Match the sentences on the left (1-5) with the correct verb patterns (a-e) on the right.



1 I'd planned to go abroad for the hen party.

2 We didn't know how to book the tickets for the event.

3 My sister is a tricky person to buy for.

4 My brother recommended going for a wine tasting.

5 I've never been that interested in learning about history.

a Preposition + -ing form

b *Know* + question word + infinitive

c Subject + be + adjective + infinitive

d Verb followed by the infinitive

e Verb followed by the -ing form

Remember there are hardly any rules associated with verb patterns. Pay attention when reading texts in English and see if you can spot any of the patterns from today's lesson!



infinitive or *-ing* form?

Read the sentences and choose the correct verb form for each one.

1 For our wedding, we chose _____ married in a small church in our village.

a. to get

b. getting

2 A friend of mine then recommended _____ flowers from her sister's flower shop.

a. to order

b. ordering

3 That friend knew I would prefer _____ locally, so it was the perfect choice!

a. to shop

b. shopping



infinitive or *-ing* form?

Read the sentences and choose the correct verb form for each one.

4 My parents suggested _____ each of our invitations to make them more personal.

a. to sign

b. signing

5 I had been planning _____ around 50 people to the wedding.

a. to invite

b. doing

6 Then, we decided _____ invitations to everyone we know – so 180 people in total!

a. to send

b. sending



What will you decide to do?

Here are some **more ideas** for **Camila and Beth's hen parties**. Which idea would be best for each of them? Discuss your ideas as a group!

1



2



3



4



5



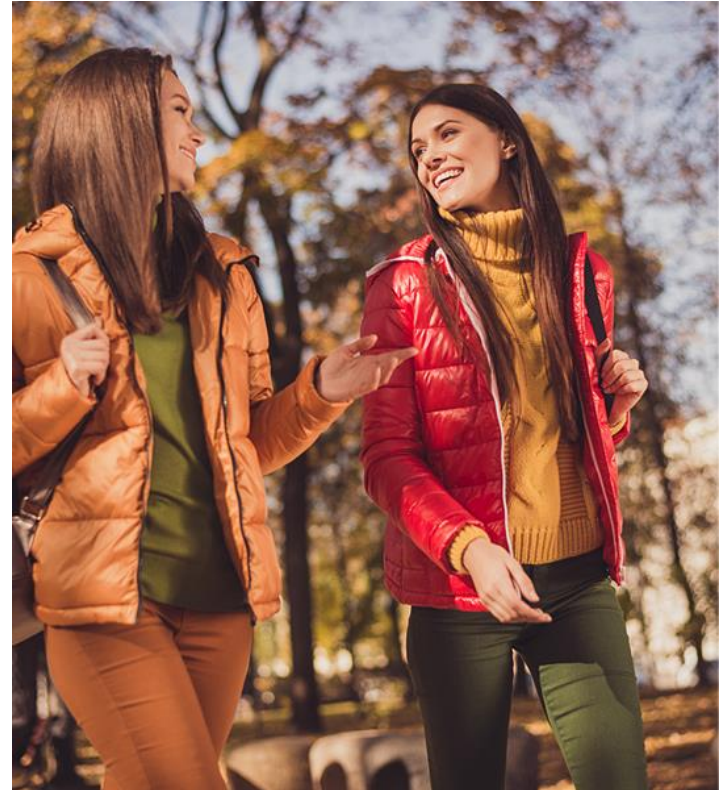
*I would suggest... then again
maybe the bride would
prefer...*



Free discussion

Choose one of the topics below. **Ask a classmate** a question about that topic. Be careful with your verb forms!

- 1 Holiday preferences for this year
- 2 Restaurant recommendations where they live
- 3 Favourite hobbies for during their free time
- 4 Career plans for the future





Answer key

- P.4:** 1. Sandra chose to go to Stockholm as Camila is a huge ABBA fan and wanted to do something memorable for her hen party.
2. Planning Beth's party was difficult for Abbie as Beth is difficult to please and doesn't enjoy partying.
3. Yes, both hen parties were a success and both brides were happy!
- P.5** **Suggested synonym:** *no idea*; **AmE:** bachelorette party
- P.6:** An infinitive is *to* + base form of the verb. We usually find it in the dictionary.
- P.7:** **Verb followed by infinitive:** *want*
Verb followed by -ing form: *suggest*
- P.8:** **Verb followed by infinitive:** *need*
Verb followed by -ing form: *hate; enjoy*
Preposition: *around*
The **-ing form** always follows a preposition.
- P.9:** **Verbs followed by infinitive:** *to want; to plan; to need; to decide; to choose; would prefer*
Verb followed by -ing form: *to suggest; to enjoy; to recommend; to hate*
- P.10-11:** 1. b; 2. a; 3. a; 4. b; 5. a; 6. b



Answer key

P.13: Infinitives: *to find; to do*

They are both question words (*where; what*)

Sandra: a place with the perfect wedding dress for Camila

Abbie: an activity for Beth's hen party.

P.14: Infinitives: *to organise; to please; to see*

Adjectives: *easy; hard; relieved*

Who or what?: easy > the act of organising Camila's hen party
 hard > the act of pleasing Beth
 relieved > Abbie (the person who planned Beth's party)
 after seeing Beth happy all afternoon!

- P.15:**
1. to begin; organising
 2. to be; to take; to stay
 3. solving; to look for; to find
 4. to spend; going
 5. starting; planning



Answer key

Additional practice

P.20: 1. d; 2. b; 3. c; 4. e; 5. a

P.21: 1. a; 2. b; 3. a

P.22: 4. b; 5. a; 6. a



Summary

- In English, when two verbs appear together, they follow patterns.
- Some verbs are followed by the **infinitive**; other verbs are followed by the **-ing form** of the verb.

- Verbs followed by the **infinitive**: to want; to plan; to need; to decide; to choose; would prefer
- Verbs followed by the **-ing form**: to suggest; to enjoy; to recommend; to hate

- There are no 'rules' to help you know if a verb is followed by the **infinitive**; or the **-ing form**.
- Unless there is a preposition! A preposition is **always** followed by **-ing form**.

- We use the infinitive with *know* and question words: *Know* + question word + infinitive
- We use the infinitive to describe someone or something: Subject + be + adjective + infinitive



Vocabulary

hen party

bridesmaid

memorable

to have no clue

relieved

hen do

stag party

