

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

● 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>I went to university to avoid getting a job!</i>
<i>in order + full infinitive</i>	<i>I went to university in order to avoid getting a job!</i>
<i>so as + full infinitive</i>	<i>I went to university so as to avoid getting a job!</i>

● 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!~~