

Verb patterns

Verbs + -ing	
adore can't stand don't mind enjoy finish imagine loathe	doing swimming cooking

Note

We often use the verb *go* + -ing for sports and activities.

I go swimming every day.

I go shopping on weekends.

Verbs + preposition + -ing	
give up look forward to succeed in think of	doing

Verbs + to + infinitive	
afford agree choose dare decide expect forget help hope learn manage mean need offer plan promise refuse seem want would hate would like would love would prefer	to do to come to cook

Notes

- Help* and *dare* can be used without *to*.
We helped clean up the kitchen.
They didn't dare disagree with him.
- Have to* for obligation.
I have to wear a uniform.
- Used to* for past habits.
I used to smoke, but I quit last year.

Verbs + sb + to + infinitive		
advise allow ask beg encourage expect force help invite need order persuade remind tell want warn would like	me him them someone	to do to go to come

Note

Help can be used without *to*.

I helped him do the dishes.

Verbs + sb + infinitive (no to)		
help let make	her us	do

Notes

- To* is used with *make* in the passive.
We were made to work hard.
- Let* cannot be used in the passive. *Allowed* is used instead.
She was allowed to leave.

Verbs + -ing or to + infinitive (with little or no change in meaning)	
begin continue hate like love prefer start	doing to do

Verbs + -ing or to + infinitive (with a change in meaning)	
remember stop try	doing to do

Notes

- I remember posting the letter.*
(= I have a memory now of a past action: posting the letter.)
I remembered to post the letter.
(= I reminded myself to post the letter. I didn't forget.)
- I stopped drinking coffee.*
(= I gave up the habit.)
I stopped to drink a coffee.
(= I stopped doing something else in order to have a cup of coffee.)
- I tried to sleep.*
(= I wanted to sleep, but it was difficult.)
I tried counting sheep and drinking a glass of warm milk.
(= These were possible ways of getting to sleep.)