

Grammar Bank

-ing form

We use the **-ing form**:

- as a **noun**. *Stealing is a crime.*
- after the following verbs: *like, dislike, love, hate, enjoy, prefer, start, begin, finish, stop*, etc to express general preference. *He enjoys watching detective stories.*
- after the verb *go* when we talk about activities. *We often go horse riding at the weekends.*
- after **prepositions**. *Cathy isn't interested in reading crime novels.*
- after the following phrases: *be busy, it's no use, it's (not) worth, there's no point (in), what's the use of, can't help, can't stand, have difficulty (in), look forward to*. *The witness had difficulty in recognising the thief.*
- after the preposition *to* with verbs and expressions such as *look forward to, be used to, get round to, object to, in addition to, prefer* (doing sth to doing sth else, etc.) *He is used to working long hours.*
- after the following verbs: *avoid, appreciate, admit, confess, consider, deny, continue, imagine, involve, mind, regret, risk, spend, suggest*, etc. *Mary avoids walking home alone at night.*
- after: *spend, waste, lose (time, money)*, etc. *She spends all her money buying gifts for her family.*

to-infinitive

We use the **to-infinitive**:

- to express **purpose**. *The police searched the area to find the robbers.*
- with the adverbs *too* and *enough*.
It's too dark outside to walk home alone.
It isn't bright enough outside to walk home alone.
- after *be* + adjective (*happy, nice, sorry*, etc).
I'm happy to hear you're fine after the attack.
- after the following verbs: *advise, agree, decide, expect, hope, manage, offer, plan, promise, refuse, seem, want*, etc. *They hope to catch the arsonist soon.*
- after *be* + *the first/second*, etc/*next/last/best*, etc.
He is always the first to arrive.
- to talk about an unexpected event which can be unpleasant usually with **only**. *He went to the office only to find out that he had left the file at home.*
- after *would like/would love/would prefer*. *I'd love to learn a foreign language.*

Infinitive without to

We use the **infinitive without to**:

- after **modal verbs** (*can, may, should*, etc). *We must call for help.*
- after the verbs *let* and *make*. *They let the suspect go free. You shouldn't make him apologise. (BUT in the passive: He shouldn't be made to apologise.)*
- after *had better* and *would rather*. *You had better tell the judge the whole truth. She would rather not talk to the lawyer.*

- *help* is followed by the **to-infinitive** or the **infinitive without to**. *She helped me (to) do my homework.*

Verbs taking the to-infinitive or the -ing form with a change in meaning

Difference in meaning between the to-infinitive and -ing form

Some verbs can take either the **to-infinitive** or the **-ing form** with a change in meaning.

- **forget + to-infinitive** = not remember
He forgot to post the letter.
- **forget + -ing form** = not recall
She will never forget visiting China.
- **remember + to-infinitive** = not forget
John remembered to lock the door.
- **remember + -ing form** = recall
I don't remember meeting you before.
- **try + to-infinitive** = attempt, do one's best
She tried to win the competition.
- **try + -ing form** = do sth as an experiment
Try cutting down on fat. You may lose weight.
- **stop + to-infinitive** = stop temporarily in order to do something else.
He stopped to buy a newspaper on his way home.
- **stop + -ing form** = finish doing something.
She stopped going to the gym when she hurt her back.

Infinitive/Gerund

7 ★ Say whether the words/expressions below are followed by the (a) **to-infinitive**, (b) **infinitive without to**, (c) **-ing form**, as in the example.

1	expect	a
2	start	.....
3	enough	.....
4	must	.....
5	it's no use	.....
6	offer	.....
7	may	.....
8	look forward to	.....
9	refuse	.....
10	finish	.....
11	would rather	.....
12	go	.....
13	let	.....
14	appreciate	.....
15	manage	.....
16	had better	.....

8 ★ Underline the correct item.

- 1 He had better turn/turning himself in.
- 2 I'm sorry **to hear/hear** that you're ill.
- 3 What's the use of **lock/locking** the front door if you leave the windows open?
- 4 I don't want to risk **speeding/to speed** – it's against the law!
- 5 Jenny called the police **to assist/assisting** her.
- 6 You mustn't **to download/download** music without paying for it.

9 ★ Choose the correct item.

- 1 He spends hours crime shows on TV.
 (A) watching B to watch C watch
- 2 You can crime in our area by starting a Neighbourhood Watch.
 A preventing B prevent C to prevent
- 3 Jason tried the robber but he got away.
 A catch B catching C to catch
- 4 Working as a police officer must quite dangerous.
 A be B to be C being
- 5 She hopes a promotion to Detective Inspector.
 A getting B to get C get

10 ★★ Put the verbs in brackets into the correct *infinitive* or *-ing* form.

- 1 A: I think there's someone outside, but it's too dark *to see* (**see**).
 B: We had better
 (**call**) the police.
- 2 A: Ron got home only
 (**find**) that thieves had broken in.
 B: I'm sorry
 (**hear**) that.
- 3 A: Do you want (**rent**)
 that new detective film on DVD?
 B: Sounds great! I regret
 (**miss**) it at the cinema.
- 4 A: What can I do (**protect**)
 my house from burglars?
 B: You could (**install**)
 an alarm.

11 ★★ Put the verbs in brackets into the correct *infinitive* or *-ing* form.

- 1 a After thieves stole his wallet, Percy stopped *walking* (**walk**) through the park at night.
 b The police car stopped
 (**check**) that we were OK.
- 2 a She forgot (**tell**) her parents about the phone call.
 b I'll never forget (**go**) home only to find out thieves had broken in.
- 3 a They tried (**put out**) the fire, but they couldn't.
 b You should try (**put**) a CCTV camera in your shop.
- 4 a I remember (**talk**) to the victim before the crime.
 b Remember (**lock**) the back door when you leave the house.

Sentence transformations

12 ★★ Complete the second sentence with **two to five words**, including the word in **bold**.

- 1 Leaving your car unlocked is careless. (**TO**)
 It is careless *to leave* your car unlocked.
- 2 The detective allowed the man to go after questioning him. (**LET**)
 The detective
 after questioning him.
- 3 We can't wait to meet the famous detective. (**LOOKING**)
 We're
 the famous detective.
- 4 Lawyers do a lot of paperwork as well as appear in court. (**APPEARING**)
 In addition to
 a lot of paperwork.
- 5 Sam doesn't walk through the park at night. (**AVOIDS**)
 Sam
 at night.