

Verb + -ing forms and infinitives (1)

- A** Some verbs can be followed either by an **object + -ing** or a **possessive + -ing** with a similar meaning, although the **possessive + -ing** form is usually considered to be rather formal:
- I resented **Tom** winning the prize. (*more formally* I resented **Tom's** winning the prize.)
 - Mary recalled **him** buying the book. (*more formally* Mary recalled **his** buying the book.)
- Other verbs like this include verbs of '(dis)liking' such as **detest**, **(dis)approve of**, **(dis)like**, **hate**, **love**, **object to**, and verbs of 'thinking' such as **forget**, **imagine**, **remember**, **think of**. Notice that we only use a possessive form (Tom's, his) here to talk about a person or a group of people:
- I remembered **the horse** winning the race. (*but not ...the horse's winning...*)
- B** Some verbs can be followed by **to + -ing** where **to** is a preposition:
- She **confessed to stealing** the money.
 - You **don't object to working** late tonight, do you?
- Other verbs like this include **adapt**, **adjust**, **admit**, **look forward**, **own up**, **resort**. Note that these verbs can also be followed by **to + noun phrase**:
- She **confessed to the crime**.
 - You **don't object to the work**, do you?
- C** Other verbs can be followed by different prepositions + **-ing**. For example:
- ☆ **by + -ing** (**begin**, **close**, **end**, **finish (off/up)**, **open**, **start (off/out)**)
 - Can you **begin by cleaning** the floors, and then do the windows?
 - ☆ **on + -ing** or **on + object+ -ing** (**concentrate**, **count**, **depend**, **focus**, **insist**, **rely**)
 - Clare **insisted on (Jack) wearing** a suit to the party.
 - ☆ **of + -ing** or **of + object + -ing** (**approve**, **hear**, **know**, **speak**, **talk**, **tell**)
 - I don't **approve of (them/ their) hunting** animals for sport.
 - ☆ **object + from + -ing** (**deter**, **discourage**, **keep**, **prevent**, **prohibit**, **stop**)
 - The noise from next door **prevented me from sleeping**.
- D** Some verbs (**feel**, **hear**, **notice**, **observe**, **overhear**, **see**, **watch**) can be followed by an object and then either by an **-ing** form or a **bare infinitive**, but their meanings may be slightly different. An **-ing** form suggests that an action is in progress, while a **bare infinitive** suggests a completed action. Compare:
- I **saw them playing** football from my window. *and* I **saw him smash** the bottle.
- Also, an **-ing** form can suggest that we watch, hear, etc. some of an action, but not from start to finish, while a **bare infinitive** suggests that we watch, hear, etc. the whole action from start to finish. Compare:
- I was able to **watch them building** the new car park from my office window. *and*
 - I **watched him climb** through the window, and then I called the police.
- E** After the verbs **dare** and **help** we can use either a **bare infinitive** or **to-infinitive**:
- I was angry with him, but I **didn't dare (to) say** anything.
 - We hope the poster campaign will **help (to) raise** awareness of the problem.
- When **dare** has an object, we can only use a **to-infinitive**. Compare:
- I **dared him to cross** the river. (*not* I dared him cross...) *and* I **helped them (to) pack**.
- After **have**, **let** and **make** we can use an **object + bare infinitive** but not **to-infinitive**:
- His exam results might **make him work** harder. (*not ...might make him to work...*)
 - I **had Beth clean up** her bedroom before I **let her go** out to play.
- F** We use a **bare infinitive** after **make** and **let** in the phrases **make do** (= to manage to deal with a situation by using what is available) and **let go** (= to stop holding something):
- Jim had borrowed my new bike, so I had to **make do** with my old one.
 - 'Don't **let go!**'

Exercises

Unit 30

30.1 If possible, rewrite these sentences using the possessive form of the object, as in 1. If it is not possible, write X. (A)

- 1 I really hate you having to be away from home so much. I really hate your having to be away from home so much.
- 2 We don't approve of the developer locating the factory so close to houses.
- 3 I have always detested the dog jumping up at me when I come home.
- 4 No-one heard the man shouting for help.
- 5 It is difficult to imagine him accepting the decision without any objection.
- 6 No-one in the crowd that day will forget Ashe fighting so hard to win the match.
- 7 I remember them arguing a great deal when they were children.
- 8 The police investigated him stealing cars from the city centre.

30.2 Complete these sentences using an appropriate form of a verb from (i), a preposition from (ii), and an -ing form from (iii). (B & C)

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
adjust close concentrate	by from	closing driving getting playing
hear own up rely	of on to	sailing smoking thanking
start out stop		winning

- 1 I need to hand in the essay tomorrow, so I've got to concentrate on getting it finished today.
- 2 I'd like to all those responsible for organising what has been a very successful conference.
- 3 Many visitors to Britain find it difficult at first to on the left.
- 4 The injury him tennis for 6 months.
- 5 Charles Hall a small dinghy on the local lake, and he has now completed a single-handed yacht journey around the world.
- 6 You shouldn't the lottery to solve your financial problems.
- 7 The first I the factory was on the radio last night.
- 8 Although they first denied it, the boys eventually in the school playground.

30.3 Consider which verb form is more likely and why, and underline it. (D)

- 1 I heard the tyre burst/ *bursting* and then the lorry skidded across the road.
- 2 Karl noticed someone watch/ *watching* him from an upstairs window.
- 3 She felt the bee sting/ *stinging* her just before she brushed it off her arm.
- 4 With a good telescope you can see the eagles feed/ *feeding* their chicks in the nest.

30.4 Match the sentence beginnings and endings, adding an appropriate object where necessary and write (to) where this might be included. (E & F)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 When Sue thought of going on the roller-coaster it made... | a go of his lead, he'll run away. |
| 2 The new course is intended to help... | b feel quite ill. |
| 3 I forgot to buy any bread so we had to make... | c prevent hay fever. |
| 4 Scientists hope the new drug will help... | d control the speed of the fan. |
| 5 The puppy isn't well trained yet, so if you let... | e wait outside my office. |
| 6 We didn't agree with the decision, but we didn't dare... | f understand modern art. |
| 7 When John arrives, have... | g do with coffee for breakfast. |
| 8 The dial on the left lets... | h protest against it. |
- 1 + b When Sue thought of going on the roller-coaster it made her feel quite ill.

Verb + **-ing** forms and infinitives (2)

A

After some verbs we need to include an object before a **to-infinitive** in active sentences:

- The police **warned** *everyone* **to stay** inside with their windows closed. (*not* The police warned to stay...)
- My teachers **didn't encourage** *me* **to work** hard at school. (*not* My teachers didn't encourage to work...)

There are many other verbs like this including **advise, allow, believe, cause, command, enable, encourage, entitle, force, invite, order, persuade, remind, show, teach, tell.**

After other verbs, however, such as **agree, consent, fail, hope, manage, offer, pretend, refuse, start, threaten, volunteer,** we can't include an object before a **to-infinitive**:

- The shop **refused** **to accept** his cheque. (*not* The shop refused him to accept his cheque.)
- We've **decided** **to leave** early. (*not* We've decided us to leave early.)

B

After some verbs, including **apply, arrange, ask, campaign, plan, and wait,** we have to put a preposition, usually **for,** immediately after the verb before an **object + to-infinitive** (see also Unit 29):

- We **waited** **for the taxi** **to come** before saying goodbye. (*not* We waited the taxi to come...)
- They **arranged** **for Jane** **to stay** in London. (*not* They arranged Jane to stay...)

After **apply, ask** and **campaign,** the **to-infinitive** is often passive:

- They **applied** for the court appearance **to be postponed.**

Other verbs can be followed by different prepositions + **object + to-infinitive.** For example:

- ☆ **at + object + to-infinitive** (**go on** (= to criticise continually), **keep on** (= to talk about something many times), **scream, yell**)
 - I **shouted** **at the man** **to open** the door.
- ☆ **on + object + to-infinitive** (**call** (= to officially ask someone to do something), **count, prevail, rely**)
 - We're **depending** **on you** **to find** a solution soon.
- ☆ **to + object + to-infinitive** (**appeal, gesture, motion**)
 - He closed the door and **signalled** **to the pilot** **to take off.**

C

A number of other **to-infinitive** and **-ing** forms can also follow verbs –

☆ **verb + negative to-infinitive** and **negative -ing** forms:

- We **decided** **not to go** to Paris after all. (*compare* The people **didn't decide** **to go** to war, it was their political leaders.)
- Some of my friends **have considered** **not going** to college because of the cost. (*compare* I **haven't considered** **going** to college – I don't want to go on studying after school.)

☆ **verb + to have + past participle.** Compare:

- Can you hear that strange noise? It **seems** **to happen** every time I turn on the tap. *and*
- The accident **seems** **to have happened** at around 1.00 p.m. yesterday.

This form is often used to give an opinion (with verbs like **seem** and **appear**) about a past event, or to report what is or was said (with passive verbs like **is/was alleged, believed, said, thought**) about past events:

- Simons **is alleged** **to have assaulted** a police officer.

☆ **verb + having + past participle.** The **verb + -ing** and **verb + having + past participle** forms have a similar meaning with these verbs. Compare:

- I now **regret** **buying** the car. *and* I now **regret** **having bought** the car.

This form is most often used with the verbs **admit, deny, forget, recall, regret** and **remember.**

31.1 Choose one of the verbs in brackets to complete each sentence. (A)

- 1 a My mother me to throw away my old toys. (*threatened/ told*)
 b My mother to throw away my old toys.
- 2 a They to visit Janet in hospital. (*allowed/ offered*)
 b They us to visit Janet in hospital.
- 3 a I to carry the heavy boxes up the stairs. (*managed/ persuaded*)
 b I Nigel to carry the heavy boxes up the stairs.
- 4 a She Jack to help in the garden. (*agreed/ encouraged*)
 b She to help in the garden.
- 5 a I her to tidy up the house. (*pretended/ reminded*)
 b I to tidy up the house.
- 6 a Brian to study economics at university. (*advised/ hoped*)
 b Brian me to study economics at university.

31.2 Complete the sentences with a preposition in the first space and one of the following verbs in the second. Use either a to-infinitive or passive form of the to-infinitive. (B)

bring do finish get off ~~lend~~ lose provide release stay

- 1 I knew I could count on you to lend me some money.
- 2 Mary felt ill and she longed the meeting so that she could go home.
- 3 I will never give up campaigning my brother from prison. I know he is innocent.
- 4 He signalled the waiter the bill.
- 5 She kept on me weight, so I've gone on a diet.
- 6 The earthquake has left many thousands homeless and the government has appealed aid agencies tents, blankets and food.
- 7 I screamed the children the railway line.
- 8 The shower isn't working in my hotel room. I'll have to ask something about it.
- 9 Following the fire at the chemical factory, the police called people in their houses with their windows closed.

31.3 Use the verbs in brackets to complete the sentences with one of the patterns in C. Give alternatives where possible.

- 1 I anyone Jack's new address. (*agree - not tell*)
- 2 The prisoners through a broken window last night. (*think - escape*)
- 3 I him at the conference. (*not recall - see*)
- 4 He any stolen property. (*deny - receive*)
- 5 He as the person who donated the money. (*ask - not name*)
- 6 The Etruscans in Italy in the 8th or 9th century BC. (*believe - arrive*)
- 7 I am sure my purse was on the table a few minutes ago, but now it
 (*seem - disappear*)
- 8 She all the way back home. (*not feel like - walk*)