

When one verb follows another, the second verb can either be the -ing form or the to infinitive. It depends on the first verb.

▲ All the verbs in this unit marked \* can also normally be followed by a that clause with the same meaning (▶ see Grammar, part 8).

### 1 Verb + to infinitive

(can't) afford \*agree aim appear \*arrange attempt choose \*decide \*demand deserve fail \*hope learn manage neglect offer omit plan prepare \*pretend \*promise refuse seem tend \*threaten (can't) wait wish

If you decide to add nuts...

Don't expect to have much cake left.

Notice how the negative is formed:

If you decide not to do it...

The following verbs + to infinitive always have an object:

dare encourage force invite order persuade remind teach tell warn

Her father taught her to play tennis.

The teacher reminded the children to bring their swimming things.

The following verbs + to infinitive sometimes have an object:

want ask \*expect beg help \*intend

We expected to be late. or We expected Tom to be late.

We wanted to stay longer. or We wanted them to stay longer.

▲ Would like, would love, would prefer etc. are also followed by the to infinitive (▶ See Grammar, part 4).

### 2 Verb + infinitive without to

Modal verbs (can, could, may, might, must, needn't, shall, should, will, would), had better and would rather are followed by the infinitive without to (▶ see also Units 12-14).

You should add them slowly.

You needn't include nuts.

Help can be followed by the infinitive with or without to.

We helped them (to) start their car.

Make and let (always with an object) are followed by the infinitive without to:

Let the cake cool for half an hour.

I made my sister help with the cooking.

▲ The passive form of make is followed by the to infinitive:

I was made to do my homework.

### 3 Verb + -ing

\*admit \*appreciate avoid can't face can't help can't stand carry on \*confess \*consider delay \*deny desert dislike enjoy fancy feel like finish give up \*imagine involve \*keep/keep on \*mention (not) mind miss postpone practise put off risk resist \*suggest

I enjoy making it.

Avoid adding the eggs...

I suggest adding a little lemon juice...

Notice how the negative is formed:

If you don't leave immediately, you risk not catching your plane.

Can you imagine not having a car nowadays?

### 4 Verbs + to infinitive or -ing (with no difference in meaning)

attempt begin can't bear continue hate like love prefer \*propose start

Continue adding the flour. or Continue to add the flour.

I prefer using apricots. or I prefer to use apricots.

I love making cakes. or I love to make cakes.

Two -ing forms do not usually follow each other:

I was starting to make a cake when the phone rang. (not I was starting-making-a-cake...)

Like + to infinitive has a slightly different meaning from like + -ing:

I like to catch the early bus on Mondays. (= this is a good plan or it's a habit, but not necessarily something I enjoy)

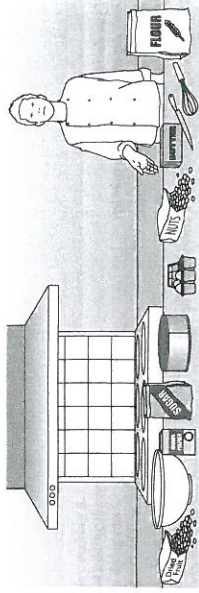
I like dancing. (= I enjoy it)

▲ Like, prefer, hate and love can be followed by the to infinitive or -ing, but would like, would prefer, would hate and would love are always followed by the to infinitive.

She would like to go out but we would prefer to stay in.

### Context listening

1 You are going to hear a TV chef telling a group of people how to cook something. Look at the picture below which shows the things he uses. Can you guess what the man is going to make?



2 Listen and check if you were right.

3 Listen again and fill in the gaps. Stop the recording when you need to.

- 1 Continue doing this ...
- 2 Avoid using the eggs all at the same time ...
- 3 ... keep all the time.
- 4 ... don't forget the baking powder ...
- 5 I recommend sultanas and apricots ...
- 6 ... if you prefer dates or raisins, that's fine.
- 7 Some people like some nuts too ...
- 8 If you decide nuts, chop them up small.
- 9 Remember if the fruit cake is ready ...
- 10 I suggest a little lemon juice ...
- 11 Don't try the cake ...
- 12 ... don't expect much fruit cake left ...

4 What do you notice about the forms of the verbs you have filled in?

### Grammar exercises

1 Complete this conversation using the verbs in brackets.

Andy: I've decided to leave. (leave) (1) my job next month.

Sally: But I thought you enjoyed working. (work) (2) in an architect's office.

Andy: Oh, I do. But I feel like doing. (do) (3) something different for a while.

Sally: Didn't you promise to stay? (stay) (4) there at least two years?

Andy: Yes, I did but I just can't stand working. (work) (5) with those people. One of them refuses to stop. (stop) (6) talking while she works, another one keeps singing. (sing) (7) to himself. And then there's a man who attempts to tell. (tell) (8) awful jokes all the time which he always gets wrong. I detest working. (work) (9) with all that noise around me.

Sally: It sounds quite a cheerful place to me. Can't you manage to ignore. (ignore) (10) them and get on with your work?

Andy: No, I can't. I just can't carry on going. (go) (11) there every day.

I'm hoping to go. (go) (12) abroad for a bit.

Sally: Well, good luck.

2 Underline the correct form of the verb.

- 1 I noticed the man drop / dropping / to drop his ticket so I picked it up for him.
- 2 The tour guide advised the tourists not take / taking / to take too much money out with them.
- 3 I heard the horses come / coming / to come down the lane so I waited for them to pass before driving on.
- 4 The old man said he would love have / having / to have the chance to fly in an aeroplane again.
- 5 Don't make the children come / coming / to come with us if they don't want to.
- 6 I saw the boy jump / jumping / to jump into the lake before anyone could stop him.
- 7 I recommend phone / phoning / to phone the hotel before you set off.
- 8 My father used to forbid us play / playing / to play in those woods.
- 9 The college only allows smoke / smoking / to smoke in the common room.
- 10 It was my drama teacher who encouraged me become / becoming / to become an actor.

## GERUND, INFINITIVE

### 5 Verb + to infinitive or -ing (with a difference in meaning)

The following verbs have two different meanings depending on the verb form that follows:

\*remember \*forget \*regret try stop mean go on

#### Verb + to infinitive

I remember checking that I had my keys when I left the house. (= a memory of a past action)

Don't forget to add the baking powder. (= an action which will be necessary)

I regret to inform you that your application was unsuccessful. (= I am sorry to tell you ...)

Try to tie the cake quickly. (= attempt to do it quickly if you can)

She stopped to have a rest. (= in order to have a rest)

If you go by train that means taking a taxi to the station. (= it involves taking a taxi)

He went on to tell them how to make a different cake. (= the next thing he did was to tell them ...)

\*advise allow forbid permit \*recommend

I recommend using apricots. or I recommend you to use apricots.

I advise adding nuts. or I advise you to add nuts.

### 7 Verb + -ing or infinitive without to (with a difference in meaning)

The following verbs always have an object (these are mainly to do with the senses):

feel hear notice see watch

Notice the difference in meaning between verb + -ing and verb + infinitive without to:

I watched the boys playing football. (= an activity continuing over a period of time)

She heard her mother singing as she came downstairs. (= continuing action)

She heard the doorbell ring. (= a short completed action)

\*Verb + that clause

All the verbs marked \* in this unit can also be followed by a that clause with the same meaning:

I suggest adding some lemon juice. = I suggest (that) you add some lemon juice.

I recommend using sultanas and apricots. = I recommend (that) you use sultanas and apricots.

They agreed to leave early. = They agreed (that) they would leave early.

\*Adjectives

The following adjectives are usually followed by the to infinitive: afraid, cheap, \*dangerous, delighted, \*difficult, \*easy, expensive, happy, impossible, interesting, \*nice, pleased, possible, safe, sorry, surprised.

I'm surprised to see you here.

The adjectives marked \* can sometimes also be followed by -ing with the same meaning:

It's nice meeting friends after school.

or It's nice to meet friends after school.

▶ See also Unit 22, Grammar, part 1 for adjectives followed by a preposition + -ing or a noun.