

B Grammar

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 ice** 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 detest 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 ...

Keep doing this ...

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**.