

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

Remember to check whether the cake is ready. (= an action which will be necessary)

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

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

They don't **mean to upset** you. (= they don't intend to)

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

6 Verb + object + to infinitive or no object + -ing

The following verbs are followed by the *to* infinitive when they have an object and by *-ing* when they have no object:

*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)

I **watched** the boy **kick** the football into the road. (= short completed action)

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

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

8 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.

9 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.