

## 5.1 Using verbs with *-ing* and infinitive

### GR5.1 )))

- 1 I'm not sure I want the job because it **involves working** with children and animals.
- 2 I **don't mind not having** dessert; I'm watching my weight.
- 3 The staff **agreed to work** overtime, provided they were paid overtime.
- 4 Roger **chose not to buy** the sports car.
- 5 The bank **has authorized me to pay** the full amount.

When one verb follows another verb, the second verb is either the *-ing* form or the infinitive, with or without *to*.

- Verbs which are followed by the *-ing* form include: *adore, don't mind, hate, love, like, can't help, can't imagine, can't stand, enjoy, fancy, feel like, involve, (don't) mind, miss.*  
*I don't feel like **going** out tonight.*
- Verbs which are followed by the infinitive with *to* include: *agree, aim, appear, arrange, expect, hope, learn (how), offer, plan, refuse, tend, want, wish.*  
*We've arranged **to meet** on the 25th.*
- Verbs which are followed by object + infinitive with *to* include: *advise, allow, ask, authorize, encourage, expect, forbid, need, remind, teach (how), tell, want.*  
*They encouraged **me to do** it.  
I'm teaching **my cousin to play** the drums.*
- *make* and *let* are followed by object + infinitive without *to*:  
*My boss never lets **me leave** work early. He always makes **us stay** until 5.30 p.m.*
- *help* is followed by object + infinitive with or without *to*:  
*Can you help **me cook** / **help me to cook** dinner?*

Some verbs are followed by *-ing* or the infinitive (with *to*) with a change of meaning. These include:

#### remember/forget

- We use *remember/forget* + *-ing* to talk about memories.  
*He'll never forget **meeting** Alice for the first time.*
- We use *remember/forget* + infinitive with *to* to say we do or don't do something.  
*I forgot **to post** your letter. Sorry.*

#### regret

- We use *regret* + *-ing* to express regret about something in the past.  
*I really regret **not speaking** to her when I had the chance.*
- We use *regret* + infinitive with *to* to express regret about something we are just about to do. Used in formal contexts.  
*We regret **to inform** you that the train has been cancelled.*

#### stop

- We use *stop* + *-ing* when we stop an action.  
*I stopped **playing** computer games when I was about 30.*
- We use *stop* + infinitive with *to* to give the reason why we stop another action.  
*Sorry we're late. We stopped **to get** some petrol.*

- 1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences about adolescence. One item has two correct answers.

My parents generally allowed me <sup>1</sup> *go / to go / going* to bed whenever I wanted as a teenager.

They were constantly asking me <sup>2</sup> *turn / to turn / turning* my music down.

They only let me <sup>3</sup> *stay / to stay / staying* out late at the weekend.

They always made me <sup>4</sup> *help / to help / helping* them <sup>5</sup> *do / to do / doing* the housework once a week. I didn't mind <sup>6</sup> *do / to do / doing* most of it, but I hated <sup>7</sup> *wash up / to wash up / washing up*.

Two things my parents taught me were <sup>8</sup> *be / to be / being* positive about life and <sup>9</sup> *take / to take / taking* every opportunity that came my way.

- 2 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct *-ing* form or the infinitive with or without *to*.
  - 1 Oliver's offered \_\_\_\_\_ (help) me with my assignment. We've arranged \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) in the library after school.
  - 2 Elisa's hoping \_\_\_\_\_ (study) history at university, but her family want her \_\_\_\_\_ (study) law.
  - 3 I don't remember \_\_\_\_\_ (take) this photo! But I can't imagine anyone else \_\_\_\_\_ (take) it with my phone.
  - 4 I really don't want \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on the work training day. I can't stand \_\_\_\_\_ (do) all those team-building exercises and so on. I've tried \_\_\_\_\_ (find) an excuse not to go, but they say everyone has to go.
  - 5 James has decided \_\_\_\_\_ (not apply) for a promotion. He's intending \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for a new job with a new company instead.
- 3 Complete the second sentence so the meaning is similar to the first sentence.
  - 1 The plan is to leave at around six in the morning.  
We're aiming to leave at around six in the morning.
  - 2 Hua watched TV for two hours last night.  
Hua spent two hours \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 She won't say who broke the window.  
She's refusing \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 We should arrive in about ten minutes.  
We expect \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 I wish I could see my friends back home.  
I really miss \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 Henrik wishes he hadn't said all those things last night.  
Henrik really regrets \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7 I'm having programming lessons from Peter.  
Peter is teaching me how \_\_\_\_\_
  - 8 Opening the window may help if you're too hot.  
Try \_\_\_\_\_

## 5.2 other uses of *-ing* and infinitive with *to*

### GR5.2 )))

- 1 I'm **fed up with eating** the same thing day after day. I wish this canteen had a better menu.
- 2 Can you do your seven times tables **without making** a mistake?
- 3 He felt really sick **after eating** a whole packet of biscuits.
- 4 Cheer up. There's no **reason to get** upset.
- 5 Have you got any **plans to move** abroad?
- 6 Zoe's bored; she **hasn't got anyone to talk to**.

We use the *-ing* form in a number of ways. These include:

- as subject or object of a sentence.  
*Running is my favourite hobby.*  
*I hate washing dishes.*
- adjective/noun + preposition + *-ing*.  
*I'm **tired of working** here.*  
*Are you **interested in coming** with us?*  
*My sister has great **memories of living** in Scotland.*
- time conjunctions such as *before*, *after*, *since* and *while* + *-ing*. This is only when the subject is the same in both clauses.  
*All course participants must sign out **before leaving**.*  
*I fell asleep **while watching** TV last night.*

Note that using a time conjunction + *-ing* is more usual in more formal contexts. In more everyday contexts, we are more likely to use a subject clause.

Everyone needs to sign out **before they leave**.  
I fell asleep **while I was watching** TV last night.

We use the infinitive in a number of ways. These include:

- adjective/noun + infinitive with *to*.  
*Is the software **easy to install**?*  
*It was **nice to meet** you.*  
*Come on. It's **time to go**.*
- noun + *be* + infinitive with *to*.  
*My **advice is to work** harder.*  
*I'd say your best **option is to start** again.*
- *something/nothing/anything*, etc. + infinitive with *to*.  
*I haven't got **anything to do**.*  
*Come here. I've got **something to tell** you.*

- 1 Complete the conversations with the *-ing* form of the verbs in the box.

be leave quit start work

- 1 A Are you serious about \_\_\_\_\_ your job?  
B Yes, I'm really fed up with \_\_\_\_\_ there.  
A Gosh. That'll be your fifth job in two years, since \_\_\_\_\_ university.
- 2 A I'm sorry for \_\_\_\_\_ late.  
B Oh, don't worry. There was a delay in \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting, anyway.

- 2 Complete the suggestions about having a party with the infinitive of the verbs in the box.

drink eat have (x3) invite warn

- 1 The most important thing is \_\_\_\_\_ music you can dance to.
- 2 It's a good idea \_\_\_\_\_ a bit of food, so that people have got something \_\_\_\_\_ if they're hungry.
- 3 Make sure that there is plenty \_\_\_\_\_. You don't want to run out of drinks.
- 4 It's better not \_\_\_\_\_ too many people. And it's always sensible \_\_\_\_\_ an equal number of males and females if possible!
- 5 It's a good idea \_\_\_\_\_ the neighbours. You don't want them complaining about the noise.

- 3 Complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets into the *-ing* form or the infinitive.

- 1 I'm sorry \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) you've lost your job. But I suppose it's an opportunity \_\_\_\_\_ (move) on and find something better.
- 2 It's great \_\_\_\_\_ (go) away on holiday, but it's always nice \_\_\_\_\_ (get) back home again.
- 3 Are you ready \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) yet? I'm getting fed up with \_\_\_\_\_ (wait), to be honest.
- 4 Pascal's accent is quite strong. He has quite a lot of difficulty in \_\_\_\_\_ (pronounce) some common words. It's sometimes hard \_\_\_\_\_ (understand) him.
- 5 Can you give me some help and advice about \_\_\_\_\_ (apply) for university as a mature student? For example, what's the best way of \_\_\_\_\_ (make) sure you get an interview?
- 6 Customers are responsible for \_\_\_\_\_ (check) they have the correct change before \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the shop.
- 7 I'd like some information about \_\_\_\_\_ (join) the gym. Is it possible \_\_\_\_\_ (do) it now?