

Verb + **-ing** or **to ...** 1 (remember/regret etc.)

A

Some verbs are followed by **-ing** and some are followed by **to ...**

Verbs usually followed by **-ing**:

admit	fancy	postpone
avoid	finish	risk
consider	imagine	stop
deny	keep (on)	suggest
enjoy	mind	

For examples, see Unit 53.

Verbs usually followed by **to ...**:

afford	fail	offer
agree	forget	plan
arrange	hope	promise
decide	learn	refuse
deserve	manage	threaten

For examples, see Unit 54.

B

Some verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...** with a difference of meaning:

remember

I **remember doing** something = I did it and now I remember this.

You **remember doing** something *after* you have done it.

- I know I locked the door. I clearly **remember locking** it.
(= I locked it, and now I remember this)
- He could **remember driving** along the road just before the accident, but he couldn't remember the accident itself.

I **remembered to do** something = I remembered that I had to do it, so I did it.

You **remember to do** something *before* you do it.

- I **remembered to lock** the door, but I forgot to shut the windows.
(= I remembered that I had to lock it, and so I locked it)
- I must **remember to pay** the electricity bill. (= I must not forget to pay it)

regret

I **regret doing** something = I did it and now I'm sorry about it:

- I now **regret saying** what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
- Do you **regret not going** to college?

I **regret to say / to tell you / to inform**

you = I'm sorry that I have to say (etc.):

- (*from a formal letter*) We **regret to inform** you that your application has been unsuccessful.

go on

Go on doing something = continue with the same thing:

- The president paused for a moment and then **went on talking**.
- We need to change. We can't **go on living** like this.

Go on to do something = do or say something new:

- After discussing the economy, the president then **went on to talk** about foreign policy.

C

The following verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...** with no difference of meaning:

begin start continue intend bother

So you can say:

- It **started raining**. *or* It **started to rain**.
- Andy **intends buying** a house. *or* Andy **intends to buy ...**
- Don't **bother locking** the door. *or* Don't **bother to lock ...**

But normally we do not use **-ing** after **-ing**:

- It's **starting to rain**. (*not* It's starting raining)

Exercises

56.1 Put the verb into the correct form, **-ing** or **to** ...

- 1 They denied *stealing* the money. (steal)
- 2 I don't enjoy very much. (drive)
- 3 I can't afford out tonight. I don't have enough money. (go)
- 4 Has it stopped yet? (rain)
- 5 We were unlucky to lose the game. We deserved (win)
- 6 Why do you keep me questions? Can't you leave me alone? (ask)
- 7 Please stop me questions! (ask)
- 8 I refuse any more questions. (answer)
- 9 The driver of one of the cars admitted the accident. (cause)
- 10 Mark needed our help, and we promised what we could. (do)
- 11 I don't mind alone, but it's better to be with other people. (be)
- 12 The wall was quite high, but I managed over it. (climb)
- 13 'Does Sarah know about the meeting?' 'No, I forgot her.' (tell)
- 14 I've enjoyed to you. I hope you again soon. (talk, see)

56.2 Tom can remember some things about his childhood, but he can't remember others. Complete the sentences.

- 1 He was in hospital when he was a small child. He can still remember this.
He can remember *being in hospital* when he was a small child.
- 2 He went to Paris with his parents when he was eight. He remembers this.
He remembers with his parents when he was eight.
- 3 He cried on his first day at school. He doesn't remember this.
He doesn't on his first day at school.
- 4 Once he fell into the river. He can remember this.
He
- 5 He said he wanted to be a doctor. He can't remember this.
..... to be a doctor.
- 6 Once he was bitten by a dog. He doesn't remember this.
..... a dog.

56.3 Complete each sentence with a verb in the correct form, **-ing** or **to** Sometimes either form is possible.

- 1 a Please remember *to lock* the door when you go out.
b A: You lent me some money a few months ago.
b: Did I? Are you sure? I don't remember you any money.
- c A: Did you remember your sister?
b: Oh no, I completely forgot. I'll phone her tomorrow.
- d When you see Steve, remember hello to him from me.
- e Someone must have taken my bag. I clearly remember it by the window and now it has gone.
- 2 a I believe that what I said was right. I don't regret it.
b I knew they were in trouble, but I regret I did nothing to help them.
c It started to get cold, and he regretted not his coat.
- 3 a Ben joined the company nine years ago. He became assistant manager after two years, and a few years later he went on manager of the company.
b I can't go on here any more. I want a different job.
c When I came into the room, Lisa was reading a newspaper. She looked up and said hello, and then went on her newspaper.
- 4 a If the company continues money, the factory may be closed.
b Julia has been ill, but now she's beginning better.
c The baby started in the middle of the night.