

## Learn**English** Teens

**Grammar videos: Verb + -ing or verb + infinitive** 



Remember to watch the video first! Then read the conversation between Sophie and Giovanni, a student she met in Italy. Sophie's helping Giovanni understand the difference between verb + ing and verb + infinitive.





After certain verbs we use the -ing form, and after other verbs we use the infinitive. Sometimes we can use either form and there is no change in meaning. Occasionally we can use either form and there is a change in meaning.



So what's the rule for whether we use the -ing form or the infinitive?

Giovanni

Sorry, there isn't a rule. You have to learn which verbs go with which pattern.

The verbs followed by -ing include enjoy, mind, stop and recommend.

I told him you really enjoy cooking.

Would you **mind helping** me?

It didn't stop raining all day yesterday.

Daisy recommends trying Alfie's tiramisu.

The negative is verb + not + -ing.

Imagine not having pizza! I eat it all the time.

Verbs usually followed by -ing:

recommend avoid mind stop finish imagine suggest miss risk enjoy



Sophie



I thought you could say: 'I recommend that you see that film'?

Yes, you're right, you can. But we're not looking at the more complex patterns with that or an object today.



OK, what about the verbs followed by the infinitive?

These include decide, want, promise, plan and forget.

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She decided to go with Elliot instead.

I wanted to visit Rome.

She promised to take me there.

I planned to go to some real Italian restaurants.

She didn't forget to phone.

The negative is verb + not + infinitive.

They decided not to make pizza.

Here are more verbs that are usually followed by the infinitive:

hope offer fail agree forget manage learn afford arrange ask expect would like decide plan promise want invite





What about the verbs that can be followed by either form?

These include start, begin, continue and bother.

It started raining. or It started to rain.

Don't bother waiting for me. or Don't bother to wait for me.

The verbs *like, love* and *hate* can be followed by *-ing* or the *infinitive* when talking about *repeated actions*.

I love reading long novels. (British English or American English)
I love to read long novels. (American English)

But when we are talking about situations, we use the -ing form.

Paulo **loves living** by the beach in Rio. Do you **like working** as a waitress?





So, 'I love learning grammar rules' or 'I love to learn grammar rules' are both OK?

Exactly. But there are some more verbs which can be followed by -ing or the infinitive, but the two options have different meanings, for example remember and stop.

I never **remember to lock** the door, and my mum gets really angry! (remember + infinitive = remember something and then do it)

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I never **remember locking** the door, but when I go back and check I always have.

(remember + -ing = remember something you did before)

She stopped smoking three years ago.

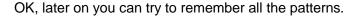
(stop + -ing = to not do something any more)

It was hot, so we stopped to have a drink. (we stopped walking)

(stop + infinitive = to not do something in order to do something else)



Let's stop to have a rest now.





Watch the video on our website!

