

VERB PATTERNS

1. VERB + -ing

If these verbs are followed by another verb, the structure

is: verb + -ing

admit
adore
allow
avoid
can't stand
carry on
consider
deny
delay
(don't) mind
enjoy
fancy
finish
give up
imagine
involve
keep
keep on
postpone
practise
put off
recommend
risk
suggest

eg.

He avoided writing the test.
Keep smiling!
Did you enjoy reading the book?
He denied stealing the purse.
I don't mind helping you.
He doesn't allow smoking in his house.
He recommended staying in that hotel.

NOTE!

LIKE

We use **like + -ing** when we talk about **hobbies** and sth. We do with pleasure. *Like=enjoy*.

Eg. I like cooking and reading the books.

When *like doesn't mean enjoy*, but we **talk about sth we think is good or right to do, or it is a habit**, we say **like + infinitive**.

I like to do the washing up immediately after the meal.

We like to eat out every Sunday.

2. VERB + to + infinitive

afford
agree
allow (passive)
appear
arrange
ask
attempt
choose
dare
decide
expect
fail
forget
help
hope
learn
manage
offer
plan
pretend
promise
refuse
seem
tend
threaten
want
would like to

eg.

I can't afford to go on holiday.
She's decided to give up her job.
It seems to be a nice day.
He agreed to lend me some money.
You are not allowed to smoke here.

3. VERB + object + to +inf.

advise
allow
ask
beg
encourage
expect
force
invite
order
permit
persuade
recommend
remind
teach
tell
want
warn
would like

eg.

They invited us to stay in their house.
She told me to come on time.
They asked us not to make such a noise.

4. VERB + -ing / to inf.

- *no change in meaning*

begin
continue
intend
start

eg. It started to rain / raining.

5. VERB + object + inf.

- no TO in this structure

help
let
make

Let me show you.
The news made her cry.
I'll help you do it.

6. VERB + -ing / to + inf.
-change in the meaning

REMEMBER

doing sth.

- when you did something and now you remember it; after you did sth.

Eg. I don't know how the burglar got in. I clearly **remember locking** the door and shutting the windows.

to do sth

- you remembered that you had to do sth, so you did it; before you did it

eg. I **remembered to lock** the door but I forgot to shut the windows.

TRY

doing sth.

- try something to see if it works or solves the problem

eg. - I've got a terrible headache.

- Why don't you **try taking** an aspirin?

to do sth.

- attempt to do, make an effort to do sth.

Eg. I **tried to keep** my open but I couldn't.

STOP

doing sth.

- to give up, finish with sth completely

eg. I **stopped smoking** two years ago. (I don't do it anymore)

to do sth.

- stop doing what you are doing at the moment in order to do sth else

eg. I was reading a book. The phone started to ring. I **stopped to answer** it.

NEED

doing sth.

- sth. needs to be done about sth else (the meaning is passive)
eg. Look at this room. It **needs painting**.

to do sth

- it is necessary for me to do it
eg. He put on weight. He **needs to take** more exercise.
I **need to do** the shopping today.

REGRET

doing sth.

- I did sth and now I am sorry about it.

Eg. I now **regret saying** what I said.

to do sth.

- regret to say/tell/inform you = I'm sorry I have to say...

eg. I **regret to tell** you that you have failed the test.

MEAN

doing sth.

- an impersonal subject, refers to what is involved
eg. If we catch an early train, it will **mean getting** up at 6.00.

to do sth

- to intend
eg. Sorry, I **meant to tell** you about the party.

GO ON

doing sth.

- to continue doing the same thing
eg. The minister paused for a moment and then **went on talking** about the education.

to do sth.

- to start sth new
eg. The minister talked about education and after a break he **went on to talk** about health care.

FINAL NOTE!

HELP

Help is followed by infinitive with or without to:

Everybody helped (to) clean up.

Everybody helped her (to) clean up.

BUT!

I can't help doing sth = I can't stop myself from doing sth.

Eg. I tried to be serious but I couldn't help laughing.