

# 28 Verb + to (He wants to help) or verb + -ing (I enjoy reading)

## 1 Look at these sentences:

*My sister **promised to help** me.*

*John **doesn't want to wait**.*

We use **to + infinitive** after these verbs:

afford	dare	decide	} + to + INFINITIVE
deserve	want	hope	
learn	mean	offer	
pretend	promise	refuse	
seem	have (= 'must')		

## 2 Look at these sentences:

*Have they **finished painting** the garage?*

*We **enjoy sitting** in the garden.*

We use an **-ing form** after these verbs:

avoid	dislike	enjoy	} + -ing
finish	give up	imagine	
keep	practise	stop	

## 3 Look at these sentences:

*Jenny **likes to stay** at home.*

*Jenny **likes staying** at home.*

These verbs can usually take an **-ing form** or **to + infinitive** with no difference in meaning:

begin	continue	hate	intend
like	love	prefer	start

But after **would hate, would like, would love** or **would prefer**, we use **to + infinitive**:

***Would you like to go** for a walk?*

***I'd love to visit** Australia.*

## 4 We can use an **-ing form** or **to + infinitive** after these verbs, but the meaning is different:

**try remember forget**

► ***I tried to lift** that heavy stone.* (= make an attempt: I made an attempt to lift the stone.)

*If you can't read where you are, **try sitting** nearer the window.* (= test something out: Sit nearer the window and see if you can read there.)

► ***Remember to go** to the bank.* (= Don't forget that you must go to the bank.)  
*She **remembers going** to the bank.* (= She remembers that she went to the bank.)

► ***Don't forget to phone** Mrs Grey.* (= Remember that you must phone Mrs Grey.)

***I'll never forget seeing** that rainbow.* (= I saw that rainbow, and I'll always remember it.)

## Practice

### A Put in the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- Paul dared to argue (argue) with the police.
- I can't imagine living (live) in the country.
- We've decided                      (go) to the beach.
- I stopped                      (play) tennis when I got married.
- I meant                      (buy) some butter, but I forgot.
- Did you promise                      (take) the children to the zoo?
- Have the men finished                      (repair) the roof yet?
- I'd love                      (visit) China.
- You shouldn't avoid                      (talk) about your problems.
- Peter refused                      (help) us.
- Would you prefer                      (pay) now or later?
- I couldn't afford                      (live) in London.
- Why does Peter keep                      (talk) about his mother?
- John hopes                      (go) to China next year.



**B Complete this conversation between Janet and Sharon with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.**

Janet: What do your children <sup>0</sup> want to do (want/ do) when they leave school?

Sharon: Well, Ann <sup>0</sup> enjoys writing (enjoy/ write), so she's  
<sup>1</sup> hoping to work (hope/work) for a newspaper. But I don't know about Paul. He <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (give up/ study) months ago. He seems to  
<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy/ do) nothing now. He doesn't  
<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (deserve/ pass) his exams. And he  
<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (refuse/ listen) to us, when we tell him to  
<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (keep/ study).

Janet: With our children, in the past, if we <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (offer/ help) them, they always <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (promise/ study) hard. Nowadays if they  
<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (want/ talk) to us, that's fine, but I've learnt to  
<sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (stop/ ask) them questions. I suppose they  
<sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (dislike/ listen) to my suggestions. They  
<sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (seem/ think) that they don't  
<sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (need/ study) hard, but one day they'll  
<sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (have/ find) a job.

**C Use an -ing form, or to + infinitive, of the word in brackets to complete each sentence.**

- 0 You say that I've met Janet, but I can't remember her.  
I can't remember meeting (meet) Janet.
- 1 Please remember that you must buy some stamps.  
Please remember \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) some stamps.
- 2 We wanted to open the door, but we couldn't.  
We tried \_\_\_\_\_ (open) the door.
- 3 John met Madonna once. He'll never forget it.  
John will never forget \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) Madonna.
- 4 Sheila intended to phone Peter, but she forgot.  
Sheila forgot \_\_\_\_\_ (phone) Peter.
- 5 Jenny had a headache. She took an aspirin, but it didn't help.  
Jenny tried \_\_\_\_\_ (take) an aspirin for her headache.
- 6 I have a special soap that will probably get your hands clean.  
Try \_\_\_\_\_ (wash) your hands with this special soap.
- 7 It will not be easy to do all the work today.  
We'll try \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) the work before tonight.
- 8 I stayed in Jane's flat while she was on holiday. I remembered that I had to feed her cats every day.  
I remembered \_\_\_\_\_ (feed) Jane's cats every day while she was on holiday.
- 9 Remember that you must invite Mary to the party next week.  
Don't forget \_\_\_\_\_ (invite) Mary to the party next week.