

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 ⁰ want to do _____ (want/ do) when they leave school?

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

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