

GRAMMAR

Use of infinitives & verbs with ending "ing"

Level: A1, A2

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INFINITIVE WITH "TO"

An infinitive in English is a verb in basic form preceded by "to":

Example:

to come
to see
to read

Appears usually after another verb in sentences:

Example:

I want **to be** alone.
We agree **to help** him.

Some popular English verbs where the infinitive is used after:

verb	example
agree	The manager agreed to pay in advance.
decide	We decided to move out.
learn	I learned to ice skate when I was 4.
plan	They are planning to build another hotel.
promise	He promised to leave me alone.
want	My sister wants to go with us.

can't wait

I **can't wait** to meet your friend.

INFINITIVE WITHOUT "TO"

The second verb being put after verbs is usually used as infinitive with "to", but there are situations in which an infinitive appears without "to."

Most of all, it concerns auxiliary verbs: can and could:

Example:

Mia **can sing** and play the piano.

I **could swim** when I was three.

Can you **open** the window, please?

"ING" FORM AFTER VERBS

There are also verbs, after which another verb is put -not an infinitive, but in a form with ending -ing.

Most common verbs, after which another verb get an ending -ing:

verb	example
dislike	I dislike dancing.
enjoy	Do you enjoy meeting new people?
finish	When are you going to finish reading this book?
give up	I gave up smoking two years ago.

After some verbs use of another verb both infinitive and with ending -ing is possible. It does not affect the meaning of a sentence:

verb	example
like	I like watching / to watch TV in the evening.
hate	She hates getting up / to get up early.
love	Mike loves reading / to read books.
start	The little girl started crying / to cry .
prefer	Do you prefer taking / to take a taxi?

worry	She began worrying / to worry about her son
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GO SKIING

The form with an ending **-ing** appears often after the verb **"to go"** and is used to express any physical activities:

verb	example
go shopping	Would you like to go shopping with me?
go swimming	I often go swimming in the river.
go skiing	We usually go skiing in the Alps in winter.
go sailing	They went sailing for the whole month.