

Verbs followed by *-ing* or infinitive

Certain verbs may be followed by either the *-ing* form or *to*-infinitive. This unit does not include verbs that are only followed by *to*-infinitive, or only followed by *-ing*. Always check with a dictionary.

Verbs followed by *-ing* + object

- *Admit, avoid, delay, *deny, dislike, enjoy, escape, face, fancy, feel like, finish, can't help, involve, keep, *mention, mind, miss, practise, risk, spend/waste (time)
To do otherwise would **risk harming** the patient.
- Verbs marked * can also be followed by a *that* clause:
He **admitted stealing** the car/**that he had stolen** the car.
- The *-ing* form can be preceded by a possessive:
I **dislike your making** such a fuss about it.

Verbs followed by *-ing* or *to*-infinitive with change of meaning

- Forget, remember
Forget/remember *to do* describes an obligation:
Can you **remember to turn** off the lights?
Don't **forget to buy** your ticket! (present time, future event)
Forget/remember *doing* describes a past event:
The older inhabitants **remember hearing** about the outbreak of the war. (present time, past event)
- Go on, continue
Go on/continue *doing* describe a continuing action:
The researchers **went on collecting** data for a week.
Go on/continue *to do* describe how things continued in the future:
That small girl **went on to become** a world famous scientist.
Go on/continue *to do* also describe what someone says later in a speech:
The Prime Minister began by describing what measures had already been taken, and **went on to outline** new proposals.
- Mean
If we agree to the offer, **it means selling** immediately. (it involves)
I **meant to post** these letters, but I forgot. (I intended to)

- **Regret**

Regret doing describes being sorry for a past action:

Alan **regretted not paying/not having paid** more attention in his maths lessons.

Regret to do describes a person's feelings when something happens:

We **regret to tell you** that the post has been given to another candidate.

- **Stop**

Stop doing describes stopping an action:

The government **stopped giving** grants to students some years ago. (it no longer happens)

Stop to do describes stopping one action in order to do another:

We **stopped** the experiment for ten minutes **to check** the equipment. (it started happening)

- **Try**

Try to do describes an attempt:

The engineers **tried to rebuild** the bridge, but failed.

Try doing describes an experience, or an experiment:

Have you **tried changing** the batteries? That might work.

If you feel faint, **try putting** your head between your knees.

Verbs followed by -ing or to-infinitive with no change of meaning

- **Can't bear, love, like, hate, prefer**

I **like working** in the library.

I **love to watch** films on my laptop.

With an object + *to*-infinitive, they describe a particular way of doing something:

My boss **prefers me to dress** formally at the office.

- **Suggest**

I **suggest we talk** about this matter on another occasion.

In that case, I **suggest setting** a date for a meeting.

I **suggest that we should set** another date for a meeting. (formal)

Verbs followed by to-infinitive or that clause

- **Agree, arrange, decide, demand, expect, hope, learn, plan, pretend, promise, swear, threaten, wish**

These are normally followed by *to*-infinitive or *that* clause with no change of meaning:

We **agreed to meet** again.

We **agreed that we would meet** again.

- **Appear, happen, seem**

These are followed by *to*-infinitive or *it* + *that* clause with no change of meaning:

This **appears to be** the place.

It **appears that this is** the place.

Verbs followed by an object and to-infinitive

- Assist, advise, beg, command, dare, employ, instruct, enable, encourage, invite, order, persuade, recommend, select, send, *teach, *tell, train, urge, *warn
The nurse **assisted the old man to climb** the stairs.
- Verbs marked * can also be followed by a *that* clause:
The police officer **warned Brian not to touch** anything.
The lawyer **warned the accused that he would probably go to prison**.

Verbs followed by infinitive without to

- Help is followed by an object + infinitive with or without *to*:
The doctor **helped the patient (to) breathe** more easily.
- Make and let are followed by an object + infinitive without *to* in active forms:
The company **made them work** on a public holiday.
The authorities **wouldn't let** the refugees come into the country.
- In the passive, *make* and *help* are followed by *to*-infinitive (when *make* means 'force'):
They **were made to work** on a public holiday.
He **was helped to set up** a small business.
- Passive *be allowed* is usually preferred to passive *be let*:
I **wasn't allowed to stay up** when I was a child.

Other structures

Some verbs may be followed by *-ing* or a different form with little difference in meaning.

- Consider *doing*, and *be considered to be*:
He **considered running** the experiment again. (he thought about doing it)
He **considered that he might be** wrong. (he thought of the possibility)
He **is considered to be** the best surgeon in the country. (an opinion)
- Imagine (+ object) *doing*, *imagine that* and *imagine that something will/would/might be*:
He couldn't **imagine (them) making** the same mistake twice.
We **didn't imagine that** we would discover the answer.
They **imagined (that) walking on the Moon would be** a lot easier.
- Need *doing*, *need to be done*, *need someone to do something*:
The results **need checking**.
These results **need to be checked**.
I **need you to check** the results.

1 Underline the most suitable verb in each sentence.

- 1 Holding a referendum on the issue will involve/plan/employ spending some £80 million.
- 2 The lab assistant enabled/missed/meant to check the progress of the experiment but forgot.
- 3 The company faces/expects/tries to take delivery of the new equipment next month.
- 4 In the end, the manager persuaded/avoided/stopped the strikers to return to work.
- 5 The government is mentioning/promising/encouraging small businesses to apply for financial assistance.
- 6 I can't help/imagine/train this project taking as long as you suggest.
- 7 He keeps meaning/complaining/demanding that nobody takes his ideas seriously.
- 8 We stop/regret/forgot to announce that the 5.15 to Leeds has been cancelled.
- 9 Unfortunately the last person to leave avoided/missed/forgot to lock the door.
- 10 After questioning him, the officers stopped/let/commanded him go.

2 Complete the text by writing an infinitive form or an -ing form of the verb in brackets in each space.

Legal problems

A solicitor who admitted (1) misleading (mislead) clients who were trying (2) (claim) compensation has been fined by the Law Society. Charles Dennis admitted (3) (give) inaccurate information which encouraged clients (4) (believe) that their claims would be trouble-free. Mr Dennis said that he now regretted (5) (not check) the information which had been put together by a colleague.

Astronaut training

Astronauts are expected (6) (deal with) isolation and other forms of stress, but being in space also involves (7) (get on with) others in cramped conditions. As space flights grow longer and crews become multi-national, they are more likely to spend time simply (8) (live) together. Now NASA is training astronauts (9) (cooperate) with other crew members. Trainee astronauts practise (10) (survive) in wilderness conditions, which encourages them (11) (respect) personality differences, and helps them (12) (develop) interpersonal and leadership skills.

3 Write a new sentence with a similar meaning to the first sentence and containing the words in bold. There may be more than one answer.

- 1 Why don't we run the experiment again?
suggest
I suggest running that we run that we should run the experiment again.
- 2 I hope you are happy to work late tonight.
mind

- 3 The rain continued to fall for twenty four hours.
went

- 4 James was sorry that he had not kept another copy of the data.
regretted

- 5 Helen is taking flying lessons.
learning

- 6 They asked him if he'd like to send in an application.
invited

- 7 The results must be checked twice.
need

4 Write a new sentence with a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word in bold. Do not change the word given.

- 1 I think this is the solution.
appear
This appears to be the solution.
- 2 The defendant had to pay £500 costs.
make

- 3 I happened to notice that the other rooms were empty.
help

- 4 We would rather that people did not use plastic bags.
prefer

- 5 They made an arrangement that they would lend the company the money.
arrange

- 6 The company discovered what their customers wanted by using a team of researchers.
employed

Practice 12

1 Complete the text by writing a verb from the box in each space.

want	advised	appears	argue	arrange
avoid	considered	decide	encouraging	estimated
expected	help	involve	needs	prefer
risks	shows	suggests	thought	waiting

Medical tourism

Many people in the UK, who do not (1) *want* to waste time (2) for an operation in an NHS* hospital, and who (3) not to pay the high prices for private surgery in the UK, (4) to travel abroad for expensive medical procedures. Research (5) that this is becoming an increasingly popular way of having medical treatment, with more than 50,000 people travelling abroad from the UK in 2007. It has been (6) that the cost of medical tourism is worth around £161 million, and this is (7) to rise year on year. Patients who feel that their treatment (8) to take place sooner rather than later can (9) to visit a hospital in another country through private companies which (10) them to choose a suitable package abroad.

Country	Price	Saving %	Travel and hotel 7 nights	Package saving %
Malaysia	£2205	72%	£1000	60%
Bulgaria	£2000	87%	£475	69%
France	£5689	29%	£480	23%
Hungary	£4450	44%	£380	40%
Tunisia	£3000	63%	£505	56%
India	£3547	56%	£560	49%
Spain	£5695	29%	£485	23%

Hip replacement UK price £8000 (2007 prices Information: Treatment Abroad)

The table (11) that costs vary considerably from place to place. Travelling a long distance, to Malaysia for example, may (12) spending more on travel and accommodation costs, but the patient will (13) paying a high price for the operation itself. Nearly 75% of treatments abroad are (14) to be dental and cosmetic procedures. Anyone who needs complex dental treatment in the UK (15) having to pay out a great deal, and cheaper treatment in Europe or further afield has become popular. The increasing popularity of cosmetic procedures (16) to have come about as the result of changing attitudes. They are now (17) to be more acceptable, although some commentators (18) that advertising has played a role in (19) people to feel uncomfortable with their appearance. Younger people are (20) not to have such treatments before consultation with a doctor.

*NHS = UK National Health Service

- 2 Complete the text by putting the verbs in brackets into an *-ing* form or an infinitive.

Having a hip replacement in France

Jane Taylor, an active 70-year old who always enjoyed (1) *walking* (walk), had her hip replacement done in France. In the UK she faced (2) (have) to wait nine eight months for her operation. 'I finally stopped (3) (worry) about the cost of private treatment and opted for an operation abroad. I had always hoped (4) (have) it done at home on the NHS, but my doctor explained that there was a long waiting list, and I wasn't an urgent case. Besides, a lot of people I knew who went into the local hospital seemed (5) (pick up) infections, so I decided (6) (have) it done privately. My doctor warned me (7) (make sure) I chose a reputable company, and I started (8) (do) some research, which mainly involved (9) (surf) the Net. I couldn't make up my mind, but then a friend suggested (10) (get) in touch with FranceMedical because they were a top-rated organization. I read through their prospectus, and then arranged (11) (go) to France for tests. I remember (12) (be) so surprised when I was greeted at the airport by one of their representatives, who was holding a bunch of flowers! I stayed in Toulouse for two nights and I really didn't expect (13) (enjoy) it so much. Everything was so well organized and they treated me so well. Two weeks later I went back to France for the operation, and follow-up physiotherapy. I couldn't imagine the hospital staff (14) (be) any better, and the operation went smoothly. I was well looked after there, and then went to a rehabilitation clinic where I spent three weeks (15) (have) physiotherapy. I was taught (16) (walk and balance) correctly, and given an exercise routine. In the end I couldn't help (17) (wonder) how the company did it all at the price! Ten months later I am free from pain and have just been on a walking holiday in Italy. I would recommend treatment abroad without hesitation. I only regret (18) (not take) control of my own treatment much earlier.'