

He can't afford to miss this one.

He missed saving the last one.

If we lose the match, they'll all blame him for not saving this one.



I want him to dive to the left.

He should think about diving to the right.

I think he means to stay where he is.

Presentation

When one verb follows another, we use different verb patterns:

- **verb + to infinitive**

*We couldn't **afford to take** a holiday this year.*

Other verbs include: *expect, fail, pretend, seem, tend, want.*

- **verb + object + to infinitive**

*The teacher **encouraged them to work** harder.*

Other verbs include: *advise, force, require, want, warn.*

- **verb + object + infinitive (without to)**

*My manager **let me leave** early today.*

Other verbs include: *help, see, hear.*

- **verb + -ing form**

*Don't **risk parking** your car here.*

Other verbs include: *avoid, dislike, mention, miss, recommend, suggest.*

- **verb + infinitive or an -ing form (1)**

Some verbs follow this pattern with **little or no change** in their meaning.

*She **started to leave** when the phone rang.*

*She **started leaving** when the phone rang.*

Common verbs include: *begin, continue, like, love, hate, prefer.*

- **verb + infinitive or an -ing form (2)**

Some verbs have a change in their meaning.

*I **forgot/remembered to set** my alarm clock last night.
(= to talk about an action which was necessary)*

*I **forgot/remember setting** my alarm clock last night.
(= to talk about a memory)*

Other verbs include: *mean, regret, stop, try.*

- **verb + preposition + -ing form**

*The customer **complained about receiving** the delivery two months after the order.*

Other verbs include: *insist on, rely on, succeeded in, think about, worry about.*

- **verb + object + preposition + -ing form**

*The neighbour **accused him of throwing** rubbish into his garden.*

Other verbs include: *blame (someone) for, criticize (someone) for, discourage (someone) from, prevent (someone) from.*

- **verb + that + clause**

Sometimes a *that*-clause can be used instead of the infinitive or -ing form. *That* can be omitted.

*The film star **claimed to be ill**. = The film star **claimed (that) she was ill**.*

However, it is not always possible, e.g. *He wanted me to come.* (don't say: *He ~~wanted that~~ I come.*)

- **perfect and passive forms**

The gerund and -ing forms can also have perfect and passive forms

*I **hoped to be awarded** first prize.*

*We don't like **being lied to**.*

*They regret **being found** guilty.*

Exercises

1 Choose the correct verb patterns. In two sentences, both patterns are possible.

- 1 They failed *to equalize / equalizing* in the final minutes of the match.
- 2 'Don't forget *to pass / passing* the ball to your other team-mates whenever you can.'
- 3 The assistant coach recommended *to replace / replacing* the defender with an attacking payer at half-time.
- 4 Both players claimed *to have scored / that they'd scored* the same goal.
- 5 The team began *to keep / keeping* the possession of the ball early on in the game.
- 6 'Why are you so worried about *to lose / losing*? Everyone knows you'll win.'
- 7 An injury prevented him from *to play / playing* in the final this year.
- 8 The fans hope *to be given / being given* a performance worth cheering in the second-half.
- 9 She stopped *to play / playing* professional tennis when she was thirty-five.
- 10 They regretted not *to listen / listening* to their manager's advice.

2 Each sentence has a missing word or a mistake. Correct it.

- 1 We tend [^]go to bed late at the weekend. to
- 2 Our English teacher always encourages to work harder.
- 3 Did you see them to leave?
- 4 It's important to avoid to walk down dark streets in a new city.
- 5 We meant calling you once we'd arrived at our hotel.
- 6 Ronaldo stopped to play for Manchester United in 2009 and moved to Real Madrid.
- 7 When he fell over, the referee accused of doing it on purpose.
- 8 The manager wanted that I to play in the match.
- 9 We don't like be criticized by our fans.
- 10 Martina Navratilova succeeded winning more tennis titles that any other player in history.

3 Complete the sentences so they are true for you by adding another verb.

- 1 Sometimes I pretend
- 2 I often advise my friends
- 3 One thing about my past is that I regret
- 4 At a restaurant, it's important to insist
- 5 I'd never criticize someone for
- 6 One day, I hope to be
- 7 I'll never forget
- 8 I have never liked
- 9 My parents always encouraged me
- 10 The last time I criticized someone