

## Grammar: Verb patterns : -ing and the infinitive

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Comme en français (*J'aime lire ; Il lui a conseillé de réserver*), un verbe anglais peut être suivi d'un autre verbe. Ce deuxième verbe prend, selon les cas, 3 formes différentes en anglais : **to-infinitif ; infinitif sans to ; forme en -ing** :

- I enjoy *reading*.
- Washing clothes at too high a temperature make them *shrink*.
- I want *to leave*.
- My brother taught me *to drive*.
- He accused his roommate of *stealing* his clothes.

### 1. VERBE + TO-INFINITIF

• La majorité des verbes sont suivis de « to + infinitif ». Voici quelques exemples fréquents :

advise	enable sb to	pretend
agree	expect	promise
allow sb to	fail	refuse
appear	force sb to	remind sb to
arrange	hesitate	seem
ask	hope	teach sb to
attempt	invite sb to	tend
beg sb to	intend	tell sb to
can/can't afford	learn	threaten
choose	manage	train sb to
claim	need	undertake
dare	neglect	want
decide	offer	warn sb (not) to
demand	persuade sb to	wish
deserve	plan	would like
encourage sb to	prepare	

- It was late, so we **decided to take** a taxi.
- Simon was in a difficult position, so I **agreed to help** him.
- I waved to Karen but **failed to attract** her attention.
- How old were you when you **learned to drive**?
- They **seem to have** plenty of money.
- We **tend to go** on camping holidays.
- I **want to leave**.

• La forme négative est “not to...” :

- We **decided not to go out** because of the weather.
- I **promised not to be** late.

• Dans certains cas, il est possible d'indiquer qui est concerné par l'action. La structure est alors **verbe + personne/chose + to-infinitif**

- I **want you to leave**.
- !!!! Do not say “want that”:
- Do you **want me to come** with you? (**NOT** Do you want that I come with you?)
- We **expected Dan to be** late.

- Pour certains verbes, il est obligatoire d'indiquer qui est concerné :

- Can you **remind me to phone** Sam tomorrow?
- Who **taught you to drive**?
- I **warned you not to touch** the switch.
- Rebecca **told me to keep** quiet.

## 2. VERBE + INFINITIF SANS TO

Tout comme les auxiliaires de mode (can, would, should, will, ...), les verbes *make* et *let* sont suivis de l'infinifitf SANS to. La structure verbale est alors **make/let + personne/chose concernée + infinitif**.

- I **made him promise** that he wouldn't tell anybody what happened.
- They **let me have** my own beliefs.
- Let Tom carry** your bag for you.

## 3. VERBE + -ING

Les verbes suivants sont toujours suivis de la forme verbale en *-ing* :

admit (to)	fancy	miss
appreciate	feel like	postpone
avoid	finish	practise
be used to	get used to	put off
can't help	hate	recommend
can't stand	imagine	regret
carry on	involve	risk
consider	justify	start
delay	keep (on)	stop
deny	like	suggest
detest	look forward to	tolerate
dislike	love	understand
enjoy	(not) mind	

- I don't **fancy going** out tonight.
- Would you **mind closing** the door?
- He tried to **avoid answering** my question.
- Have you ever **considered going** to live in another country?

- La forme négative est "not -ing" :

- When I'm on holiday, I **enjoy not having** to get up early.

- Avec certains verbes, la structure **verbe + somebody/something + -ing** est possible :

- I can't **imagine George riding** a motorbike
- Sorry to **keep you waiting** for so long.
- You can't **stop me doing** what I want.

#### 4. VERBE + PRÉPOSITION + -ING

Un certain nombre de verbes sont toujours employés avec une préposition spécifique : to talk *about* the problem, to apologise *for* the noise, to accuse *of* a crime, ... Quand l'objet qui suit la préposition est un verbe, celui-ci se termine toujours par *-ing* :

Have you <b>succeeded</b>	<b>in</b>	finding a job?
They <b>insisted</b>	<b>on</b>	paying for the meal.
I'm <b>thinking</b>	<b>of</b>	buying a house.
I wouldn't <b>dream</b>	<b>of</b>	asking them for money.
He doesn't <b>approve</b>	<b>of</b>	swearing.
We have <b>decided</b>	<b>against</b>	moving to London.
Do you <b>feel</b>	<b>like</b>	going out tonight?
I'm <b>looking forward</b>	<b>to</b>	meeting her.
We <b>talked</b>	<b>about</b>	going to America.
You must <b>apologise</b>	<b>for</b>	not telling the truth.
He <b>admitted</b>	<b>(to)</b>	stealing the money.



*Souviens-toi !* Quand un verbe suit une préposition, il se termine toujours par *-ing*.

- Tom's very good **at** learning languages.
- How **about** meeting for lunch tomorrow?
- Before** going out, I phoned Sarah. (PAS ~~Before to go out~~)
- You can improve your English **by** reading more. (by + verbe en -ing = en faisant ; expression de la manière)

Il est parfois possible d'indiquer qui est concerné, la structure devenant

**verbe + somebody/something + préposition + -ing :**

Verbe +	qqn/qqch +	prép. +	-ing
I <b>congratulated</b>	Liz	<b>on</b>	getting a new job.
They <b>accused</b>	us	<b>of</b>	telling lies.
Nobody <b>suspected</b>	the general	<b>of</b>	being the spy.
What <b>prevented</b>	you	<b>from</b>	coming to see us?
I forgot to <b>thank</b>	them	<b>for</b>	helping me.
<b>Excuse</b>	me	<b>for</b>	being so late.
Please <b>forgive</b>	me	<b>for</b>	not writing to you.
I <b>apologized</b>	<b>to</b> them	<b>for</b>	keeping them waiting.
The rain didn't <b>stop</b>	us	<b>(from)</b>	enjoying the trip.
He never <b>forgave</b>	her	<b>for</b>	what she said.

## 5. CAS SPÉCIAUX

- Le verbe **help** est suivi de l'infinifatif avec ou sans **to**, sans différence de sens :
  - Can you **help me to move** this table? OU Can you **help me move** this table?
  - The drought **has helped (to) make** this a disastrous year for Somalia.
- Les verbes **begin, start, continue, bother** sont suivis de to-infinifatif ou de la forme en **-ing**, sans différence de sens.
  - It has started raining OU It has started to rain.
- Certains verbes peuvent être suivis soit de to-infinifatif ou de la forme en **-ing**, mais avec une différence de sens :

### a) Remember, forget, regret

Ces 3 verbes se construisent avec **-ing** pour évoquer un souvenir (donc une idée de passé) ou avec to-infinifatif pour exprimer une action à accomplir (donc une idée de futur).

- I regret going there by car.
- I regret to tell you that it's too late.
- I'll never forget breaking down in the middle of Glasgow. It was awful.
- "You forgot to sign the cheque." – "Oh, sorry."
- I know I locked the door. I clearly remember locking it.
- I remembered (= I didn't forget) to lock the door, but I forgot to shut the windows.

### b) Try

Try **doing** = do sth as an experiment, or test (essayer à titre d'expérience)

- "The photocopier doesn't seem to be working." "Try pressing the green button –perhaps that will help to solve the problem."
- I didn't like the way the furniture was arranged, so I tried moving the table to the other side of the room. But it still didn't look right so I moved it back again.

Try **to do** = attempt to do, make an effort to do (tenter de, s'efforcer de)

- I was very tired. I tried to keep my eyes open, but I couldn't.
- Please try to be quiet when you come home. Everyone will be asleep.
- I tried to move the table, but it was too heavy.

### c) Like/love/hate

Like **doing/to do** = both forms can be used to talk about an activity (repeated actions) you enjoy, you take pleasure in (in BrE, the ing-form is more common)

- I like reading/to read (= reading is an activity I enjoy)
- I like learning/to learn new languages.

Like **to do** = to enjoy performing the action

- I like skating, but I don't like to skate. = I'm interested in skating (e.g. I enjoy watching it on TV) but I personally don't skate, I don't do that activity
- I like singing, but I don't like to sing in front of other people.

Like **to do** = used to talk about preferences, preferred behaviours, customs, habits

- It's not my favourite job, but I like to clean the kitchen as often as possible.
- In China, they like to eat with chopsticks.

- I like to do exercise before breakfast (= it suits my lifestyle, but I don't necessarily enjoy doing it)

Like **doing** = used to refer to current states and situations

- I like being British/having a beard/being a teacher/being married
- I hate living in such a small apartment.

NB: *enjoy* and *mind* are always followed by –ing (not to...)

To learn more about those differences: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2MICdnQo8k>

#### d) Mean

Mean **doing** = exprime le résultat, ce que qch implique.

I have to be at the airport by nine. It **means getting** up early.

Mean **to do** = "avoir l'intention de"

I'm sorry. I didn't **mean to step** on your foot.

#### e) Stop

Stop **doing** = mettre fin à une action, arrêter de faire qqch

You'd better **stop dreaming** and get on with some work.

To stop **to do** = but

At the next services he **stopped (in order) to buy** a newspaper.

## 6. TABLEAU RÉCAPITULATIF

French	Verb patterns	Examples
accuser qqn de	accuse sb of doing sth	They accused me of telling lies.
admettre, reconnaître	admit (to) doing sth	He admitted (to) stealing the book.
conseiller de	advise sb to do sth	He advised me not to buy this car.
déconseiller de	advise (sb) against doing sth	We advise against drinking tap water.
pouvoir se permettre de	afford to do sth	I can't afford to buy a new car.
être d'accord de	agree to do sth	I agreed to help him (to) do his homework.
autoriser, permettre de	allow sb to do sth	They allowed us to leave.
avoir l'air de, paraître	appear to do sth	They appear to be ill.
s'excuser de	apologise (to sb) for doing sth	I apologised (to the teacher) for being late.
reconnaître la valeur de	<b>FF!</b> appreciate doing sth	I appreciate having your advice.
approuver, voir d'un bon oeil	approve of doing sth	He doesn't approve of swearing.
arranger, organiser, convenir de	arrange to do sth	We arranged to meet in front of the cinema.
demander de	ask (sb) to do sth	She asked me to open the door for her.
tenter de	attempt to do sth	I will attempt to talk to him on Monday.
éviter de	avoid doing sth	He tried to avoid answering my question.
supplier de	beg (sb) to do sth	He begged me to keep his secret.
commencer à	begin doing sth/to do sth	I've begun learning/to learn Spanish.
avoir l'habitude de	be used to doing sth	I'm used to driving on the left.
ne pas pouvoir s'empêcher de	can't help doing sth	I couldn't help laughing.
continuer à	carry on doing sth	You'll have an accident if you carry on driving like that.
choisir de	choose to do sth	I chose to learn German rather than Spanish.
prétendre que, déclarer	claim to do sth	He claims to have seen you at the party.
féliciter de	congratulate sb on doing sth	I congratulate you on getting a new job.
envisager de	consider doing sth	Have you ever considered moving to Paris?

continuer à	continue doing/to do sth	He continued crying/to cry.
décider de	decide to do sth	We decided to take a taxi home.
renoncer à	decide against doing sth	I decided against applying for this job.
exiger de	demand to do sth	I demand to see the manager!
nier, refuser d'admettre	deny doing sth	He denied ever wanting to go out with her.
mériter de	deserve to do sth	She deserves to win the race.
ne pas aimer de	dislike doing sth <i>"not like" is more common than dislike</i>	I dislike/don't like being the centre of attention.
rêver de	dream of doing sth	I dream of moving to America.
permettre, donner la possibilité	enable (sth/sb) to do sth	He enabled me to get back in shape.
encourager à	encourage sb to do sth	He encouraged me to try harder.
aimer, apprécier	enjoy doing sth	I really enjoy swimming.
excuser qqn de	excuse sb for doing sth	Excuse me for being late.
s'attendre à, prévoir, compter sur	expect (sb/sth) to do sth	I expect (you) to come home at 9.00.
ne pas réussir à	fail to do sth	I waved but I failed to attract her attention.
avoir envie de	fancy doing sth	I don't fancy going out tonight.
avoir envie de	feel like doing sth	I don't feel like going out tonight.
terminer de	finish doing sth	I've finished cleaning the flat.
forcer, obliger à	force sb to do sth	My parents forced me to remove my piercing.
oublier de	forget to do sth	I forgot to call him last night.
pardonner qqn de	forgive sb for doing sth	Please forgive me for not writing to you.
s'habituer à	get used to doing sth	You will soon get used to working the night shift
aider à	help sb (to) do sth	Could you help me (to) carry this bag?
hésiter	hesitate to do sth	I will not hesitate to contact your manager.
espérer	hope to do sth	I hope to see her on my way home.
imaginer, s'imaginer	imagine doing sth	I can't imagine living there.
insister pour faire qqch	insist on doing sth	He insisted on paying for the meal.

avoir l'intention de	intend to do sth	I intend to punish him.
inviter à	invite sb to do sth	He invited me to give my opinion.
impliquer de	involve doing sth	Buying a house involves getting a loan.
continuer à, ne pas arrêter de	keep (on) doing sth	He keeps (on) interrupting me.
apprendre	learn to do sth	I learned to drive 3 years ago.
laisser	let sb do sth	My parents never let me go out.
aimer	like doing sth	I like reading before going to bed.
	like to do sth	I like to clean the kitchen every other day.
attendre avec impatience	look forward to doing sth	I'm looking forward to meeting her.
« avoir la nostalgie de »	miss doing sth	I miss playing with the kids.
faire faire qqch à qqn	make sb do sth	I made him promise to call me soon.
réussir à	manage to do sth	Tom managed to find her in the crowd.
impliquer de	mean doing sth	Arriving on time means getting up early.
avoir l'intention de	mean to do sth	I didn't mean to hurt you.
être dérangé, ennuyé par	mind doing sth	I don't mind ironing.
avoir besoin de	need (sb) to do sth	I need to calm down.
négliger de	neglect to do sth	I neglected to keep up with my friends.
proposer de	offer to do sth	He offered to help.
ordonner à qqn de	order sb to do sth	The teacher ordered him to get out.
persuader, convaincre de	persuade sb to do sth	I persuaded him not to tell her.
projeter de, avoir l'intention de	plan to do sth	How long do you plan to be away?
reporter, remettre à plus tard	postpone doing sth	I postponed flying to London because I was ill.
s'entraîner à	practise doing sth	The pupils practised writing the letter C.
empêcher	prevent sb/sth (from) doing sth	The crash prevented me from arriving on time.
faire semblant de	pretend to do sth	Ann pretended not to see me.
promettre	promise (sb) to do sth	I promise to pay you another visit.



conseiller, recommander de	recommend doing sth	I recommend booking in advance.
refuser	refuse to do sth	He refused to give his email address.
être désolé de devoir faire	regret to do sth	We regret to announce the cancellation of your flight.
regretter d'avoir fait	regret doing sth	I regret hurting your feelings.
se souvenir d'avoir fait	remember doing sth	I remember asking her out.
se rappeler de, ne pas oublier de	remember to do sth	I remembered to shut the windows.
rappeler à qqn de	remind sb to do sth	Can you remind me to call him tonight?
se risquer à, courir le risque de	risk doing sth	She won't risk coming after what happened.
sembler, avoir l'air de	seem to do sth	They seem to have plenty of money.
commencer	start doing sth/to do sth	I've already started cleaning/to clean the house.
arrêter de	stop doing sth	Suddenly everybody stopped talking.
s'arrêter pour	stop to sth	He stopped to have a better look at it.
empêcher qqn de	stop sb (from) doing sth	He stopped me (from) doing what I want.
réussir	succeed in doing sth	Have you succeeded in finding a job yet?
suggérer, proposer	suggest doing sth	Tom suggested going to the restaurant.
suspecter	suspect sb of doing sth	They suspect him of stealing money.
parler, discuter de	talk about doing sth	We talked about buying a new car.
enseigner, apprendre à	teach sb to do sth	Who taught you to drive?
dire à qqn de	tell sb to do sth	He told me to get lost!
avoir tendance à	tend to do sth	He tends to talk too much.
remercier qqn d'avoir fait	thank sb for doing sth	I thanked him for helping me.
penser, réfléchir à	think of doing sth	We're thinking of moving to a bigger house.
menacer	threaten to do sth	He threatened to leave her.
entraîner, former à	train sb to do sth	Employees are trained to deal with air rage.
essayer de	try doing sth	Why don't you try talking to him first?
	try to do sth	Please try not to forget this time!
s'engager à	undertake to do sth	The proofreader has undertaken to make the corrections.

vouloir	want (sb/sth) to do sth	I want (you) to leave.
conseiller de	warn sb to do sth	He warned me not to touch the switch.
désirer, souhaiter	wish to do sth	I wish to make a complaint.
vouloir	would like (sb/sth) to do sth	I'd like you to meet my parents.