

# INFINITIVES AND -ING FORMS

## 1. INFINITIVE WITHOUT TO

The infinitive is used without to in several different cases.

### 1. Modal auxiliary verbs

After the modal auxiliary verbs **will, shall, would, should, can, could, may, might, and must**, we use the infinitive without **to**. It is also used after the expressions **would rather and had better**, and after **need and dare** when they are used as auxiliary verbs.

*I must go now.  
Can you help me?  
I'd rather go alone.  
You'd better see what she wants.  
Need I do the washing up?  
How dare you call me a liar.*

After **ought, used, be and have**, the **to-infinitive** is used.

### 2. Let, make, hear, etc

Certain verbs are followed by an object and the infinitive without **to**. They are: **let, make, see, hear, feel, watch, notice, help** (in an informal style).

*She lets her children stay up very late.  
I made them give me the money back.  
I didn't see you come in.  
I heard her say that she was fed up.  
Did you feel the earth move?  
Could you help me unload the car?*

When these verbs are used in the passive, they are followed by the to-infinitive.

*He was made to pay back the money.  
She was heard to say that she disagreed.*

## 2. INFINITIVE AS SUBJECT OF A SENTENCE

In older English, an infinitive subject could easily be put at the beginning of a sentence, like any other subject.

*To err is human, to forgive divine. (Pope)*

In modern English, it is more common to begin the sentence with it ('preparatory subject'), and to put the infinitive later.

*It's easy to make mistakes. (Instead of To make mistakes is easy.)  
It was impossible to explain what I meant.*

An **-ing** form is often used instead of an infinitive as the subject of a sentence, particularly when we are talking about an activity in general. The **-ing** form can be put at the beginning of a sentence.

*Selling insurance is a pretty boring job.*

But if we are talking about one particular action, the infinitive is more usual.

*It was difficult to sell my car.*

## 3. INFINITIVE AFTER VERB

It is very common for one verb to be followed directly by another. This happens, for instance, if we talk about our attitude to an action: the first verb describes the attitude, and the second refers to the action.

*I enjoy playing cards.  
I hope to see you soon.*

In some of these cases, the second verb is the infinitive; in others, the **-ing** form is used. The choice depends on the first verb. For instance, **hope** can be followed by an infinitive (or by a **that**-clause); **enjoy** is always followed by an **-ing** form. Some verbs (eg **try, remember**) can be followed either by an infinitive or by an

**-ing** form, with a difference of meaning. Some verbs (eg **think**) cannot be followed directly by another verb.

In order to know what structures are possible after a particular verb, you should consult a good dictionary. The commonest verbs which are followed directly by an infinitive are:

<i>afford</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>appear</i>	<i>arrange</i>
<i>ask</i>	<i>attempt</i>	<i>bear</i>	<i>begin</i>
<i>care</i>	<i>choose</i>	<i>consent</i>	<i>dare</i>
<i>decide</i>	<i>determine</i>	<i>expect</i>	<i>fail</i>
<i>forget</i>	<i>happen</i>	<i>hate</i>	<i>help</i>
<i>hesitate</i>	<i>hope</i>	<i>learn</i>	<i>like</i>
<i>love</i>	<i>manage</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>neglect</i>
<i>offer</i>	<i>prefer</i>	<i>prepare</i>	<i>pretend</i>
<i>promise</i>	<i>propose</i>	<i>refuse</i>	<i>regret</i>
<i>remember</i>	<i>seem</i>	<i>start</i>	<i>swear</i>
<i>tend</i>	<i>trouble</i>	<i>try</i>	<i>want</i>
<i>wish</i>			

Some of these verbs can also be followed by the **-ing** form, often with a different meaning.

Some of these verbs, and a number of others, can be used in the construction **verb + object + infinitive** (for example, *I wanted her to come back early*).

Note that these verbs are all followed by an infinitive with to (except sometimes **dare**).

## 4. VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

**Want, allow**, and some other verbs are normally used with an object and an infinitive.

*She didn't want me to go. (Not: \*...that I go.)  
They don't allow people to smoke.  
I didn't ask you to pay for the meal.*

The following list contains the commonest verbs which are used in this construction. Many of them can also be used in other constructions (for instance, with an **-ing** form or a **that**-clause); for detailed information about each verb you should consult a dictionary.

<i>advise</i>	<i>hate</i>	<i>prefer</i>
<i>allow</i>	<i>help</i>	<i>press</i>
<i>ask</i>	<i>instruct</i>	<i>recommend</i>
<i>bear</i>	<i>intend</i>	<i>request</i>
<i>beg</i>	<i>invite</i>	<i>remind</i>
<i>cause</i>	<i>leave</i>	<i>teach</i>
<i>command</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>tell</i>
<i>compel</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>tempt</i>
<i>encourage</i>	<i>need</i>	<i>trouble</i>
<i>expect</i>	<i>oblige</i>	<i>want</i>
<i>forbid</i>	<i>order</i>	<i>warn</i>
<i>force</i>	<i>permit</i>	<i>wish</i>
<i>get</i>	<i>persuade</i>	

There are some common verbs that cannot be used in the structure verb + infinitive; for instance, **suggest**.

*I suggested that she (should) go home.  
or I suggested her going home.*

## 5. FOR + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

\* After certain adjectives, the special structure **for + object + infinitive** is often used.

*It is important for the accounts to be ready by Friday.  
It's unusual for her door to be open - I wonder if something's wrong.  
I'm anxious for the party to be a success.*

The same meaning could often be expressed with a **that**-clause (*I'm anxious that the party should be a success*), but this is usually

more formal in style.

This **for**-structure is used after three kind of adjectives:

**A)** Adjectives that express importance or urgency, for instance, *important, essential, vital, necessary, pointless, unimportant, unnecessary*. The sentence is often introduced by *It is*.

*It is essential for the classroom to have plenty of light.  
It is pointless for the three of us to go: one will be enough.*

**B)** Adjectives that express frequency, for instance, *common, normal, unusual, rare*. The *It is* structure is often used.

*It is unusual for foxes to come so close to the town.  
Do you think it's normal for a child to get so tired?*

**C)** Adjectives that express personal reactions to the future, for instance, *anxious, eager*.

*I'm anxious for the painting to be ready on time.  
They say they'll be delighted for Mary to go and stay.*

\* A **for**-structure is often used after *too* and *enough*.

*It's too heavy for you to lift.  
I think it's late enough for us to put Philip to bed.*

\* The **for**-structure can also be used after certain nouns, for instance, *plan, idea, suggestion*.

*Have you heard about the plan for Jack to stand for the Liberals in the General Election?  
His idea is for us to travel in two different cars.*

## 6. INFINITIVE OF PURPOSE.

The infinitive with **to** is used to talk about people's purposes, the reasons why they do things.

*My brother got a job to earn money for his holiday.  
He started drinking to forget.  
He stopped for a minute to rest.*

The same idea can be expressed by using **in order to** or **so as to**.

*I got up early in order to have time to pack.  
We went via Worcester so as to miss the traffic jams.  
He stopped for a minute in order to rest.*

In negative sentences, **in order not to** or **so as not to** are used; the infinitive alone is not usually correct.

*I'm going to start now, in order not to miss the beginning.*

After *come, go, run, hurry up, stay, stop* and some other verbs, and can be used instead of an infinitive of purpose.

*Come and have a drink.  
Hurry up and get dressed.  
Stay and have dinner.  
We ought to stop and think.  
Would you go and tell the children to shut up?*

## 7. -ING FORM WITH POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE OR 'S

The possessives *my, your* etc, and genitives like *John's*, can be used with **-ing** forms.

*Do you mind my making a suggestion?  
I'm annoyed about John's forgetting to pay.*

In informal English it is more common to use forms like *me, you, John* instead, especially when these forms are functioning as the grammatical object of the sentence.

*Do you mind me making a suggestion?  
I'm annoyed about John forgetting to pay.*

Note that the verbs *see, hear, feel, smell* are not usually followed by possessive + **-ing**.

*I saw him letting out of his car. (Not \*I saw his getting...)*

## 8. -ING FORM AFTER A VERB.

When one verb is followed by another, the second verb is not always in the infinitive. You can say *I want to travel* or *I hope to travel*, but not *\*I enjoy to travel*. *Enjoy* is usually followed by the **-ing** form, and so are quite a number of other verbs. The most common are:

<i>admit</i>	<i>excuse</i>	<i>miss</i>
<i>appreciate</i>	<i>face</i>	<i>postpone</i>
<i>avoid</i>	<i>feel like</i>	<i>practise</i>
<i>consider</i>	<i>finish</i>	<i>put off</i>
<i>contemplate</i>	<i>forgive</i>	<i>resent</i>
<i>delay</i>	<i>give up</i>	<i>resist</i>
<i>deny</i>	<i>can't help</i>	<i>risk</i>
<i>detest</i>	<i>imagine</i>	<i>can't stand</i>
<i>dislike</i>	<i>involve</i>	<i>suggest</i>
<i>endure</i>	<i>leave off</i>	<i>understand</i>
<i>enjoy</i>	<i>mention</i>	
<i>escape</i>	<i>mind</i>	

For example:

*I really appreciate having time to relax.  
Have you considered getting a job abroad?  
Excuse my interrupting...  
You mentioned having been in hospital last year.*

*Prevent* is followed by object + (from) + **-ing**.

*There's nothing to prevent him (from) taking the money.*

The **-ing** form is also used in the following cases:

*to burst out crying / laughing  
to go swimming / shopping  
to spend / waste time / money doing something  
to keep (on) doing something*

## 9. -ING FORM AFTER PREPOSITION

The **-ing** form is used after all prepositions (including *to*, when *to* is a preposition). The infinitive is impossible in these cases.

*You should check the oil before starting the car (Not: ...\*before to start...)  
He walked away without looking back. (Not: ...\*without to look...)  
You can't make an omelette without breaking the eggs  
We got the job finished by working sixteen hours a day.  
He's always talking about moving to the country.  
I look forward to hearing from you.*

## 10. TO + -ING

Sentences like *I look forward to hearing from you* may seem strange, if you expect the verb in every *to* + verb structure to be the infinitive. The point is that *to* is really two different words. One of them is just a sign of the infinitive. (It is used with most infinitives, but is left out in some cases, for example after *can* or *must*.)

*I want to go home. You can go home alone.  
The other to is a preposition.  
Lawrence has gone to Denmark.  
I'm looking forward to Christmas.  
Do you object to Sunday work?  
I'm not used to London traffic.*

When this preposition is followed by a verb, we use the **-ing** form (as we do after all prepositions).

*I'm looking forward to seeing you at Christmas.  
Do you object to working on Sundays?  
I'm not used to driving in London.  
I prefer riding to walking.*

If you are not sure whether it is a preposition or not, try putting a noun after it. If you can, it is a preposition (and is followed by the **-ing** form of a verb). Compare:

*I'm not used to British traffic conditions.  
I'm not used to driving on the left.  
I object to music in restaurants.  
I object to having loud music playing while I eat.*

If **to** cannot be followed by a noun, it is not a preposition, and **-ing** is not used. You cannot say *\*I want to dinner*, so you do not say *\*I want to eating*.

Common examples of **to + -ing** are: *look forward to ...-ing, object to ...-ing, be used to ...-ing, in addition to ...-ing, be accustomed to ...-ing* (but *be accustomed to + infinitive* is also possible).

### 11. -ING FORM: SPECIAL CASES

Note the use of the **-ing** form after *as, like, than, any / some / no etc good, any / some / no etc use and worth*.

*As well as getting on everybody's nerves, he's got a habit of borrowing money and forgetting to pay it back.  
Why don't you do something useful, like cleaning the flat?*

*There's nothing that depresses me more than waking up with a hangover on a wet Monday.  
Is it any good trying to explain?  
It's not much use my buying salmon if you don't like it.  
It isn't worth repairing the car. (= The car isn't worth repairing)*

### 12. -ING FORM OR INFINITIVE?

Some verbs can be followed by either an **-ing** form or an infinitive, usually with a difference of meaning. The most important cases are:

<i>advise</i>	<i>go on</i>	<i>propose</i>
<i>allow</i>	<i>hate</i>	<i>regret</i>
<i>attempt</i>	<i>hear</i>	<i>remember</i>
<i>can't bear</i>	<i>intend</i>	<i>see</i>
<i>begin</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>start</i>
<i>continue</i>	<i>love</i>	<i>stop</i>
<i>forbid</i>	<i>permit</i>	<i>try</i>
<i>forget</i>	<i>prefer</i>	<i>watch</i>

This is also the case with certain adjectives:

<i>accustomed</i>	<i>interested</i>	<i>used</i>
<i>afraid</i>	<i>sorry</i>	
<i>certain</i>	<i>sure</i>	

\* With *remember, forget, stop, go on and regret*, the difference is connected with time. the **-ing** form refers to things that happened earlier (before the remembering, forgetting, etc takes place); the infinitive refers to things that happen after the remembering, etc.

**A) Remember + -ing** = remember what one has done, or what has happened  
*I shall always remember meeting you for the first time.*

**Remember + infinitive** = remember what one has to do.  
*Remember to go to the post office, won't you.*

**B) Forget + -ing** = forget what one has done, or what has happened  
*I shall never forget seeing the Queen.*

**Forget + infinitive** = forget what one has to do.  
*She's always forgetting to give me my letters.*

**C) Stop + -ing** = stop what one is doing, or does.  
*I really must stop smoking.*

**Stop + infinitive** = make a break or pause in order to do something.

*Every half hour I stop work to smoke a cigarette.*

**D) Go on + -ing** = continue what one has been doing.  
*How long do you intend to go on playing those bloody records?*

**Go on + infinitive** = **change, move on to something new.**

*He welcomed the new students and then went on to explain the college regulations.*

**C) Regret + -ing** = be sorry for what has happened.  
*I don't regret telling her what I thought, even if it upset her.*

**Regret + infinitive** = be sorry for what one is going to say.

*I regret to inform you that we are unable to offer you employment.*

\* With the adjective **interested**, the **-ing** form refers to what will (or may) happen, and the infinitive refers to what has happened.

**Interested in + -ing** = interested by the idea of doing something.

*I'm interested in working in Switzerland. Do you know anybody who could help me?*

**Interested + infinitive** = interested by what one learns or experiences.

*I was interested to read in the paper that scientists have found out how the universe began.*

\* **Like + -ing** = enjoy  
*I like walking in the rain.*

**Like + infinitive** = choose to; be in the habit of; think it right to.  
*I like to get up early so that I can have plenty of work done before lunch.*

*I heard you talking and I didn't like to disturb you, so I went away.*

Note that **would like** means 'wish' or 'want', and is always followed by the infinitive.

*What would you like to do tomorrow? (Not: \*What would you like doing tomorrow?)*

\* With **love, hate and prefer** there is not much difference between the two structures.

*I love lying / to lie on my back and staring / to stare at the sky.  
Some people hate working / to work in the early morning.  
Personally, I prefer working / to work in the morning.*

When we are referring to one particular occasion, it is more common to use the infinitive.

*Would you like to have lunch now or would you prefer to wait?  
I'll love to come and see you some time.  
I hate to break things up, but it's time to go home.  
I hate to mention it, but you owe me some money.  
'Can I give you a lift?' - 'No, thanks, I prefer to walk.'*

\* **Allow, advise, forbid and permit** are followed by an **-ing** form when there is no personal object. If we say who is allowed, advised, etc, the infinitive is used.

*Sorry, we don't allow smoking in the lecture room.  
We don't allow people to smoke in here.  
I wouldn't advise taking the car - there's nowhere to park.  
I wouldn't advise you to take the car...*

\* After **see, watch and hear**, and **-ing** form suggests that we observe part of a complete action; when we start looking or listening it is already going on. The infinitive is used when we want to suggest that we observe the whole action from beginning to end.

*When I walked past his house I heard him practising the violin  
I heard Oistrakh play the Beethoven violin concerto last week.*

*When I glanced out of the window I saw Mary crossing the road.  
I watched him step off the pavement, cross the road, and disappear into the post-office.*

\* **Try + -ing** = make an experiment; do something to see what will happen.

*I tried sending her flowers but it didn't have any effect.  
Try putting in some more vinegar - that might make it taste a bit better.*

\* **Try + infinitive** = make an effort; attempt to do something difficult.

*Please, try to understand.  
I once tried to learn Japanese.*

\* **Afraid of + -ing and afraid + infinitive** can often both be used with little difference of meaning.

*I'm afraid to fly / of flying.  
I'm afraid to tell / of telling her.*

However, when we are talking about things which happen to us unexpectedly, without our wanting or choosing them, only the **-ing** form is possible.

*I'm afraid of crashing. (Not: \*...to crash.)  
I don't like to speak French because I'm afraid of making mistakes. (Not: \*...to make...)*

Compare:

*I'm afraid of diving / to dive into the swimming pool. (= I don't want to do it.)  
I'm afraid of falling into the swimming-pool. (= I don't want it to happen to me. Here \*...to fall is impossible.)*

\* **Begin and start** can be followed by an **-ing** or infinitive structures, usually with no real difference of meaning. It is perhaps more common to use an **-ing** form when we are talking about the beginning of a long or habitual activity.

*How old were you when you first started playing the piano?*

The **-ing** form is not used after a progressive form of **begin** or **start**.

*I was beginning to get angry. (Not: \*...getting...)*

After **begin** and **start**, the verbs **understand** and **realize** are only used in the infinitive.

*She began to understand what he really wanted. (Not: \*...understanding...)*

\* After **propose, attempt, intend, continue, can't bear and be accustomed to**, both structures are possible with little difference of meaning, but the infinitive is probably more common after **propose, attempt and intend**.

*I can't bear getting / to get my hands dirty.  
He intends to double the advertising budget.*

\* **Sorry** is used with an infinitive when we apologize for something that we are doing or about to do.

*Sorry to disturb you? - Could I speak to you for a moment?*

When we apologize for something that we have done, we use a perfect infinitive or for + **-ing**, or a **that**-clause.

*Sorry to have woken you up yesterday.  
I'm sorry for waking you up (or for having woken you up) yesterday.  
I'm sorry that I woke you up yesterday.*

## EXERCISES

### 1) Gerund, infinitive and present participle

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct forms. Note that sometimes an infinitive without to will be required.

- 1.- 'I was lonely at first,' the old man admitted, 'but after a time I got used to (live) alone and even got (like) it.'
- 2.- Before trains were invented people used (travel) on horseback or in stage coaches. It used (take) a stage coach three days (go) from London to Bath.
- 3.- I meant (buy) an evening paper but I didn't see anyone (sell) them.
- 4.- Tom: I want (catch) the 7 a.m. train tomorrow. Ann: But that means (get) up at 6.00; and you're not very good at (get) up early, are you?
- 5.- He accepted the cut in salary without complaint because he was afraid (complain). He was afraid of (lose) his job.
- 6.- She remembers part of her childhood quite clearly. She remembers (go) to school for the first time and (be) frightened and (put) her finger in her mouth. And she remembers her teacher (tell) her (take) it out.
- 7.- Did you remember (lock) the car? - No, I didn't. I'd better (go) back and (do) it now.
- 8.- No, I didn't move the bomb. I was afraid (touch) it; I was afraid of (be) blown to pieces!
- 9.- Next time we go (house-hunt), remember (ask) the agent for clear directions. I wasted hours (look) for the last house.
- 10.- Tom: Let's (go) for a swim. Ann: I'm not particularly keen on (swim). What about (go) for a drive instead?
- 11.- The hunters expected (be paid) by the foot for the snakes they caught. This meant (take) the snakes out of the sack and (measure) them. They seemed (expect) me (do) it; but I wasn't particularly anxious (be) the first (die) of snakebite.
- 12.- After (spend) two days (argue) where to go for their holidays, they decided (not go) anywhere.
- 13.- He is talking about (give) up his job and (go) (live) in the country.
- 14.- I was just about (leave) the office when the phone rang. It was my wife; she wanted me (call) at the butcher's on my way home.
- 15.- He said, 'I'm terribly sorry to (keep) you (wait).' I said, 'It doesn't matter at all,' but he went on (apologize) for nearly five minutes!
- 16.- The lecturer began by (tell) us where the island was, and went on (talk) about its history.
- 17.- My father thinks I am not capable of (earn) my own living, but I mean (show) him that he is wrong.
- 18.- Tom: I can't get my car (start) on cold mornings. Jack: Have you tried (fill) the radiator with hot water? That sometimes helps.
- 19.- Did he manage (carry) the trunk upstairs? - No, he didn't. He isn't strong enough (move) it, let alone (carry) it upstairs.
- 20.- Jack: Don't forget (take) a hacksaw with you. Ann: What's a hacksaw? And why should I (take) one with me? Jack: It's a tool for (cut) metal. You see, Tom is bound (get) into trouble for (take) photographs of the wrong things, and you'll be arrested with him. With a hacksaw you'll be able (saw) through the bars of your cell and (escape).
- 21.- Peter: Wouldn't it be better (ask) Tom (leave) his camera at home? Jack: It would be no good (ask) Tom (do) that. It would be like (ask) a woman (travel) without a handbag.
- 22.- I've got the loaf; now I'm looking for a breadknife (cut) it with.- I saw Paul (sharpen) a pencil with the breadknife a minute ago.
- 23.- We stopped once (buy) petrol and then we stopped again (ask) someone the way.
- 24.- When I caught them (cheat) me, I decided (not trust) them again.
- 25.- Do you feel like (dine) out or would you rather (have) dinner at home? - I'd like (go) out. I always enjoy (have) dinner in a restaurant.
- 26.- Your hair needs (cut). You'd better (have) it done tomorrow -unless you'd like me (have) a go at it for you. 27.- I tried (convince) him that I was perfectly capable of (manage) on my own, but he insisted on (help) me.
- 28.- Jack: I don't mind (travel) by bus, but I hate (stand) in queues. Tom: I don't care for (queue) either; and you wasted so much time (wait) for buses. I think it's better (go) by tube or taxi.
- 29.- He took to (follow) me about and (criticize) my work till I threatened (hit) him.
- 30.- I have (stay) here; I'm on duty. But you needn't (wait);

you're free (go) whenever you like.

- 31.- In Animal Farm the old pig urged the animals (rebel) against man but he warned them (not adopt) man's habits.
- 32.- There is no point in (arrive) half an hour early. We'd only have (wait).- I don't mind (wait) It's better (be) too early than too late.
- 33.- I always try (come) in quietly but they always hear me (go) upstairs. It's impossible (climb) and old wooden staircase at night without (make) a noise.
- 34.- If you agree (work) for me. I'll see about (get) you a work permit.
- 35.- We'd better (start) early. We don't want (risk) (get) caught in a traffic jam.
- 36.- He suggested (call) a meeting and (let) the workers (decide) the matter themselves.

### 2) Gerund, infinitive and present participle.

Instructions as for 1.

- 1.- We suggested (sleep) in hotels but the children were anxious (camp) out.
- 2.- Paul: Would you like (come) to a lecture on Wagner tonight? Ann: No, thanks. I like (listen) to music but I don't like (listen) to people (talk) about it.
- 3.- If you want the milkman (leave) you milk in the morning, remember (put) a milk bottle outside your door.
- 4.- They let us park motorcycles here but they won't allow us (park) cars.
- 5.- They don't allow (smoke) in the auditorium; they don't want (risk) (set) in on fire, but you can (smoke) in the foyer during the interval.
- 6.- Mr Shaw is very busy (write) his memoirs. He is far too busy (receive) callers (he is so busy that he can't receive callers), so you'd better just (go) away.
- 7.- What about (buy) double quantities of everything today? That will save (shop) again later in the week.
- 8.- The inspector asked (see) my ticket and when I wasn't able (find) it he made me (buy) another.- He probably suspected you of (try) (travel) without one.
- 9.- Would you like me (turn) down the radio a bit? - Not, it's all right. I'm used to (work) with the radio on.
- 10.- I want the boy (grow) up hating violence but his father keeps (buy) him guns and swords.- It's almost impossible (prevent) boys (play) soldiers.
- 11.- Would you children mind (keep) quiet for a moment? I'm trying (fill) in a form.-
- 12.- It's no use (ask) children (keep) quiet. They can't help (make) a noise.
- 13.- I'm thinking of (go) to Oxford tomorrow on my motorbike. Would you like (come)? - No, thanks, I want (go) Oxford, but I'd rather (go) by train. I loathe (travel) by road. 14.- Let's (go) (fish) today. There's a nice wind. What about (come) with us, Ann? - No thanks, I'm very willing (cut) sandwiches for you but I've no intention of (waste) the afternoon (sit) in a boar (watch) you two (fish).
- 15.- He resented (be) ask (wait). He expected the minister (see) him at once.
- 16.- The police have put a railing here (prevent) people (rush) out of the station and (dash) straight across the road. 17.- All day long we saw the trees (toss) in the wind and heard the waves (crash) against the rocks. 18.- I didn't mean (eat) anything but the cakes looked so good that I couldn't resist (try) one.
- 19.- Do you feel like (walk) there or shall we (take) a bus? - I'd rather (go) by bus. Besides, it'll take ages (get) there on foot.
- 20.- All right. When would you like (start)? In a few minutes? - Oh, let's wait till it stops (rain); otherwise well get soaked (walk) to the bus station.
- 21.- The old miser spent all his time (count) his money and (think) up new hiding-places. He kept (move) it about because he was terrified of (be robbed). He used (get) up at night sometimes (make) sure it was still there.
- 22.- Jack suggested (let) one flat and (keep) the other for myself. But Tom advised me (sell) the whole house.
- 23.- The child used (lean) on the gate (watch) the people (go) to work in the mornings and (come) home in the evenings. And he used to hear them (shout) greeting to each other and (talk) loudly.
- 24.- He soon got (know) most of them and even managed (learn) the greetings. Then they began (greet) him too on their way to work and sometimes would stop (talk) to him on their way home.
- 25.- He succeeded in (untie) himself, (climb) out of the window

and (crawl) along a narrow ledge to the window of the next room.

26.- Did you have any trouble (find) the house? - No, but I had a lot of difficulty (get) in. Nobody seemed (know) where the key was.

27.- Bill couldn't bear (see) anyone (sit) round idly. Whenever he found me (relax) or (read) he would (produce) a job which, he said, had (be) done at once. I wasted a morning (perform) his ridiculous tasks and spent the rest of the weekend (keep) out of his way.

28.- After (spend) a week in the cottage, he decided that he didn't really enjoy (live) in the country and began (think) of an excuse for (sell) the cottage and (return) to London.

29.- It's no use (argue) with him. You might as well (argue) with a stone wall. He is incapable of (see) anyone else's point of view.

30.- I'm delighted (hear) that you can come on Saturday. We are all looking forward to (see) you. Remember (bring) your rubber boots.

31.- He has been charged with (receive) and (sell) stolen goods. He has admitted (receive) but denies (sell) them. The fact is that he hasn't had time (sell) them yet.

32.- He noticed the helicopter (hover) over the field. Then, to his astonishment, he saw a rope ladder (be) thrown out and three men (climb) down it. He watched them (run) across the field and out through a gate. Later he saw a car with four men in it (come) out of the lane (lead) to the field.

33.- He admitted that it was possible that the car happened (be passing) and that the three men persuaded the driver (give) them a lift; but he thought it much more likely that they had arranged for the car (pick) them up and that the driver had been waiting in the lane for the helicopter (drop) them.

34.- What about (have) a picnic in Piccadilly Circus? - What an extraordinary place (have) a picnic! Fancy (sit) there with the traffic (swirl) round you and the pigeons (take) bites of your sandwiches!

35.- Would you mind (write) your address on the back of the cheque and (show) us some proof of your identity?

36.- Let's (swim) across.- I'm not really dressed for (swim). What's wrong with (go) round by the bridge?

### 3) For + object + infinitive

a) e.g. *It's too dark; I can't see anything = It's too dark for me to see.*

- 1.- It's too early; don't go yet.
- 2.- It was too difficult; he couldn't do it.
- 3.- I'm lending you this book; I want you to read it.
- 4.- The water wasn't warm enough; he didn't have a swim.
- 5.- It was not clear enough; they did not understand.
- 6.- The flat is too small; we can't live in it.
- 7.- It's too sour; I can't eat it.
- 8.- The garage is large enough; we can put our cars in it.

b) e.g. *It's important that he should see it first. =*

*It's important for him to see it first.*

- 1.- It's necessary that you should know about it.
- 2.- It's strange that he should refuse to see him.
- 3.- It's impossible that this should go on much longer.
- 4.- It was necessary that I should have seen you as agreed.
- 5.- It was a good thing that they agreed to sell it to us.
- 6.- It was important that they trusted her.

### 4) to + gerund or infinitive

Decide whether to is functioning as a preposition or as part of an infinitive, and then complete the sentences with the gerund or the infinitive of the verbs in brackets.

- 1.- The speaker said he would confine himself to (try) to (answer) four questions.
- 2.- By selling council houses, we are able to devote more money to (build) fresh properties.
- 3.- Hard work is the key to (pass) examinations.
- 4.- The idea of a laboratory permanently in space is moving rapidly nearer to (become) a reality.
- 5.- Having suggested the scheme myself, I now feel committed to (try) to (make) it work.
- 6.- I think that is what he said, but I can't swear to (have) heard him correctly.
- 7.- He used to (dislike) London, but he now seems resigned to (live) there.
- 8.- Jones came very close to (win) a gold medal for Britain in the Olympics.
- 9.- It might be better to (try) to (discuss) it in his own

language, as he isn't used to (speak) English.

10.- Most educationalists agree that no teacher's duties should be limited solely to (teach).

11.- Unreliable delivery dates are one of the most important obstacles to (increase) our exports.

12.- Since the introduction of new services, many businessmen have taken to (travel) by train for journeys between 100-200 miles.

### 6) Verb + (noun or pronoun) + gerund

**I) Replace the words in italics by a gerund construction. The object or possessive form of a pronoun or noun will be required before the gerund in some cases, e.g.**

*I didn't recall that he had said such a thing.*

*I didn't recall him (or his) saying (or having said) such thing.*

- 1.- He didn't even acknowledge that he had received the invitation.
- 2.- The witness reported that he had seen a dark saloon car parked outside the bank at the time of the robbery.
- 3.- The accused admitted that he had received the stolen goods.
- 4.- The headmaster suggested that I should try the examination again the following year.
- 5.- I don't recollect that I actually promised to help you.
- 6.- A group of MPs has advocated that the Government should set up a special commission of inquiry.
- 7.- Do you anticipate that there will be any real problem in getting support?
- 8.- Surely he won't deny that he was there on that occasion?
- 9.- No one doubted that he was sincere in his beliefs.
- 10.- I can't imagine that he would ever agree to such a proposition.