

Verb Patterns

There are different verb patterns that follow a verb and what kind of verb pattern depends on the verb before it. So here is a list of the three patterns.

Verb + 'ing'

enjoy	cooking
finish	
stop	crying

Examples:

Sara enjoys going to parties.

I finished doing my homework. Did you finish doing your homework yet?

The baby stopped crying after her diaper was changed. When did the baby stop crying?

Verb + Infinitive (to + verb)

choose	to fly
decide	
forget	to mail
promise	
need	to call
help	
try	
hope	to pass
want	
would like	to travel
would love	to play
would hate	

Examples:

I chose to fly British Airways because they are better than Air Canada.

Jim decided to cancel the party.

I forgot to buy milk and eggs. Did you forget to buy milk and eggs again?

John promised to love Jane forever and then he left her.

I need to find a bus station.

Jane helped to organize the birthday party. Who helped to organize the birthday party?

Brad tried to eat sushi but he did not like it. Did Brad really try to eat sushi?

I hope to pass the IELTS exam with a score of 6.5.
I wanted to buy a new car but they were too expensive.

Would you like to travel to Mars?
I would like to buy a new car.
I would love to sail around the world in a big yacht.
Would you love to sail around the world?
I would hate to meet an angry bear.

Verb + ing OR Verb + Infinitive

begin	reading	to read
start		
continue		
prefer		
like	skiing	to ski
love		
hate		

Examples:

He began reading when he was six. He began to read when he was six.
She started playing soccer at school. She started to play soccer at school.
Tom continued playing hockey until he was 40. Tom continued to play hockey until he was 40.
I prefer reading real books. I prefer to read real books.
I like baking pies. I like to bake pies.
John loves golfing. John loves to golf.
Sam hates being late. Sam hates to be late.

Verb + ing

There is one other verb pattern - verb + ing, that is used AFTER a preposition. For example, "We talked about having a party on Friday."

Some prepositions are:

in, on, about, at, of, before, after, with

ONLY use the verb + ing form.

You should focus on making goals.
He depends on having money from his parents.

Here are some common words: (all of these use verb + ing)

be excited about

compared to

talk about

think about

be sad about

be interested in

be good at

be bad at

instead of

be happy about