

Verb patterns

Group 1: verbs which can be followed by **both**:

+ verb ing and **+ to + verb (infinitive)**

Like Love Try

I love listening to music

I love to listen to music

Group 2: verbs which can **ONLY** be followed by:

+ to + verb (infinitive)

Decide Want Forget
Promise Would like Need
Would love Hope Learn

I forgot to bring my phone today

Group 3: verbs which can **ONLY** be followed by:

+ verb ing

Think of Enjoy Finish

I finished painting my kitchen yesterday

Exception: Be looking forward to + verb ing

This expression is used when you are excited about doing something in the future. It is one of the few times when an **-ing** verb follows 'to'

I'm looking forward to seeing my friends tomorrow

Exercise 1: Hopes and ambitions

Write a sentence about each person's ambition

1: Samantha / teacher / work / with children **Verbs:** **want / love**

*Samantha **wants** to be a teacher because she **loves** working with
young children*

2: James / vet / work / with animals **Verbs:** **hope / love**

3: Mathew / farmer / work / outside in the fresh air **Verbs:** **would / enjoy**

4: Suzy / stockbroker / earn / a lot of money **Verbs:** **think of / want**

5: Julia / nurse / help / sick people **Verbs:** **decide / like**

6: Joe / accountant / work / with numbers **Verbs:** **want / love**

7: John / retire next year/ spend more time painting **Verbs:** **decide / want**

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8: My parent / buy a house near the sea / sailing **Verbs:** **think of / enjoy**

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Exercise 2: + verb ing or + to + verb (infinitive)?

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb

(infinitive or -ing). Sometimes both are possible.

- 1: I enjoy *walking* (walk) in the park.
- 2: I want *to watch* (watch) football on TV tonight.
- 3: My sister finished (clean) the kitchen at 10pm last night
- 4: She likes (wake up) early in the morning.
- 5: My brother decided (buy) some books online.
- 6: I am learning (drive) at the moment.
- 7: I love (drink) a cup of coffee first thing in the morning.
- 8: My dad would like (move) to the countryside.
- 9: My mum hopes (meet) her friends at the weekend.
- 10: You forgot (clear up) the mess in the kitchen!
- 11: I'd like (send) her a message to say thank you for her help.
- 12: He likes (listen) to music while he's working?
- 13: I'm thinking of (relax) in front of the TV tonight.
- 14: I promise (cook) a meal for you tomorrow night.
- 15: She's looking forward (move in) to her new flat.
- 16: Wait a minute! I need (go) to the toilet.

Exercise 3: about you

Write five sentences about you. Choose from the following expressions:

Tell me something you:

like doing

decided to do recently

I want to do in the future

are thinking/hoping of doing in the future

I forgot to do recently

love doing

I promised to do recently

would like to do

are looking forward to doing

finished doing recently

I need to do soon

are learning to do at the moment

I tried to do recently

stopped doing recently

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.