

Verb + to + Infinitive
Verb + -ing Form

Verb + Verb

used after

- Modal verbs (e.g. It **might rain** later. Sara **will be** away for three days.)
- Had better and Would rather (e.g. It's cold. You'd **better wear** a coat.
I'd **rather listen** to Elvis than the Beatles.)
- Let and Make (e.g. The programme really **made** me **laugh**.
Trevor's boss is going to **let** him **leave** work early.)

Verb + to + Infinitive used after

agree, appear, arrange, ask, attempt, (can't) afford, can't wait, choose, claim,
decide, demand, expect, explain, fail, forget, happen, help, hope, know, learn,
manage, offer, plan, prepare, pretend, promise, prove, refuse, seem, tend,
threaten, understand, wait, want, wish, wonder

Verb + -ing form used after

admit, avoid, can't face, can't help, can't stand, carry on, consider, delay, deny, dislike, enjoy, excuse, fancy, feel like, finish, give up, imagine, involve, keep (on), mention, mind, postpone, practice, put off, risk, save, suggest

Verb + to Infinitive/-ing form

like, love, prefer, hate, begin, bother, continue, propose (= intend)

LIKE TO DO

Like takes a to-infinitive when it means that we prefer to do something even though we may not enjoy it.

I like to check my work carefully before I hand it in.

LIKE DOING

Like usually takes an -ing form when we use it to talk about hobbies and interests.

Claire likes skiing.
I don't like swimming much.

After **would like**, **would love**, **would prefer** and **would hate**, we use a **to-infinitive** but not usually an **-ing form**.

I'd like to do a parachute jump one day. My sister would love to work as an artist.

Mark would prefer to drive rather than take the train. I'm glad I live here. I'd hate to live in a big city.

Compare **would like** and **like**.

WOULD LIKE

I'd like to lie on the beach today. It's too hot to do anything else.

I'd like means 'I want', but it is more polite

LIKE

I like lying on the beach. I always spend my holidays sunbathing.

I like means the same as 'I enjoy'.