

VERB PATTERNS

Learning verb patterns can be tricky because they depend on the verb you're using and sometimes its meaning in context. Here's a simple guide to help you:

1. Verb + -ing

Some verbs are followed by another verb in the **-ing form**. These verbs often describe actions we enjoy, dislike, or involve continuing or stopping something.

Examples:

- **Enjoy:** I enjoy **reading**.
 - **Dislike:** She dislikes **cooking**.
 - **Avoid:** He avoided **talking** to her.
 - **Finish:** They finished **studying**.
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2. Verb + to + infinitive

Some verbs are followed by **to + infinitive**. These often describe decisions, plans, or desires.

Examples:

- **Want:** I want **to learn** Spanish.
 - **Decide:** They decided **to leave** early.
 - **Plan:** She plans **to travel** this summer.
 - **Need:** We need **to finish** this project.
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3. Verbs that can take both patterns but with a difference in meaning

Some verbs can be followed by either **-ing** or **to + infinitive**, but the meaning changes.

- **Remember:**
 - I remember **locking** the door. (I locked it, and now I remember doing it.)
 - I remembered **to lock** the door. (I didn't forget; I locked it.)
- **Stop:**
 - She stopped **smoking**. (She quit the habit of smoking.)

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- She stopped **to smoke**. (She paused what she was doing in order to smoke.)
 - **Try:**
 - I tried **opening** the window. (I experimented to see if it helped.)
 - I tried **to open** the window. (I attempted but didn't succeed.)
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4. Verb + object + to + infinitive

Some verbs need an **object** before the **to + infinitive**.

Examples:

- **Ask:** I asked him **to help** me.
 - **Tell:** She told us **to be** quiet.
 - **Want:** They want the children **to study** harder.
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5. Verb + object + bare infinitive (without 'to')

A few verbs are followed by an **object + infinitive without 'to'**.

Examples:

- **Make:** She made me **laugh**.
 - **Let:** They let us **leave** early.
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Tips to Learn These Patterns

1. **Memorize common verbs in each group:** Start with a list of verbs for each pattern and practice them in sentences.
2. **Use context:** Think about what the verb means in the sentence to decide the pattern.
3. **Practice and exposure:** The more you read and listen to English, the more you'll naturally notice these patterns.
4. **Check a good reference:** Keep a grammar book or online resource handy for tricky cases.