

VERB AND ADJECTIVE PATTERNS

Verb patterns

There are six main types of verb pattern:

- verb + *to* + infinitive. Verbs in this group include: *agree, decide, fail, long, offer, pretend, promise, refuse, threaten*.
I offered to help him.
- verb + object + *to* + infinitive. Verbs in this group include: *allow, ask, cause, enable, force, invite, persuade, order, tell*.
I asked them to consider my personal situation.
- verb + object + infinitive. Verbs in this group include: *hear, let, make, notice*.
The company let me take some time off.
- verb + *-ing*. Verbs in this group include: *avoid, consider, deny, forget, like, mean, miss, remember, risk, stop, suggest*.
He denied doing anything wrong.
- verb + preposition + *-ing*. Verbs in this group include: *admit to, apologize for, disapprove of, insist on, resort to, succeed in*.
He insisted on doing it himself.
- verb + object + preposition + *-ing*. Verbs in this group include: *prevent ... from, accuse ... of, thank ... for, congratulate ... on*.
Commentators accused him of behaving badly.

Adjective patterns

There are two main types of adjective pattern:

- adjective + *to* + infinitive. Adjectives in this group include: *able, difficult, eager, free, impossible, pleased, reluctant, willing*.
I'm willing to stay at the party for a little while.
I find it difficult to follow.
- adjective + preposition + *-ing*. Adjectives in this group include: *afraid of, good at, happy about, hopeful of, intent on, involved in, keen on, satisfied with, successful in, suited to, tired of, upset about*.
I'm not keen on spending the weekend at the conference.
I'm tired of reading this book.

There are a few adjectives that describe whether an activity is likely to have the expected or desired result. In these cases we use adjective + *-ing* without a preposition.

- It's worth giving him a call.*
- It's hopeless trying to use a blunt saw.*

Verb + infinitive and verb + *-ing*

Some verbs can be followed by *to* + infinitive or *-ing* without any real difference in meaning. Verbs in this group are: *begin, cease, continue, start*.

- I began wondering / to wonder what the point of it all was.*
- If you continue working / to work so hard, you're going to make yourself ill.*

Other verbs can be followed by *to* + infinitive or *-ing* and the meaning changes according to the pattern used. Verbs in this group include: *go on, mean, remember, stop, try*.

- I don't mean to be rude. (= intend to be)*
- Living abroad means learning another language. (= involves learning)*
- Please remember to switch off the lights.*
- I remember meeting her once before.*
- Try to be more careful. (= make an effort)*
- Try listening to her music some time. (= experiment with)*

Adjective + infinitive and adjective + *-ing*

Some adjectives (e.g. *keen, interested*) are followed by the infinitive when we talk about a specific situation, but are followed by preposition + *-ing* or noun when we talk about a general situation.

- I'm keen to go to the conference.*
- I'm keen on swimming.*
- I'm interested to know what you think.*
- I'm interested in learning languages.*

Some adjectives (e.g. *afraid, pleased*) can be used with either infinitive or preposition + *-ing* or noun with little difference in meaning.

- I was pleased to have been asked to attend.*
- I was pleased about being asked to attend.*

► Exercises 1 and 2

It + be + adjective + *-ing* or infinitive

Adjectives which describe the way we feel about a situation can be followed by either *to* + infinitive or *-ing* without any real difference in meaning.

- It was nice talking / to talk to you.*
- It's good being / to be home.*

Adjectives which don't describe feelings in such sentences are followed by one form (usually the infinitive).

- It's not polite to stare.*
- It's easy to make that kind of mistake.*
- It's not worth doing.*

► Exercise 3

PATTERNS USING ADJECTIVE + THAT

There are many adjectives describing feelings that can be followed by a *that*-clause. Adjectives include: *amazed, annoyed, certain, disappointed, happy, surprised, sorry, upset*.

- I was surprised that the shop didn't have the item I wanted. (or I was surprised about the shop not having ...)*
- She was determined that she wouldn't miss the celebration. (or She was determined not to miss ...)*

► Exercises 4 and 5

EXERCISES

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb. Add prepositions where necessary.

- I expected _____ (her / be) very upset _____ (miss) the chance to come on holiday with us, but she didn't seem _____ (mind) too much.
- Most climbers are aware _____ (the risks) that they are taking, but whereas that would deter _____ (you or I / climb), it makes _____ (them / feel) excited.
- We've considered _____ (move) house, but we're reluctant _____ (leave) all the good friends we've made in the area.
- He isn't satisfied _____ (watch) the game on TV; he insists _____ (be) there in person. He hasn't got a ticket yet, but he's hopeful _____ (get) one.
- She was so determined _____ (get) a job with Google that she resorted _____ (them) letters to the company, begging _____ (them / give) her an interview.
- Please don't apologize _____ (be) late. We're very relaxed _____ (time-keeping) here.
- I'm getting really tired _____ (him / make) excuses. Whenever he's criticized _____ (do) something wrong, he denies _____ (have) any responsibility for it.
- It's pointless _____ (ask) me to comment. I'm not involved _____ (make) financial decisions.

2 Choose the correct option to complete the sentences. Sometimes both options are possible.

- I'd be very glad *to have / about having* the opportunity to show you what I can do.
- If the photocopier starts *to make / making* a funny noise, please switch it off immediately.
- Be careful *not to fall / about not falling* when you go down the steps. They're very slippery.
- I'm always very anxious *to get / about getting* people's names wrong.
- Did you mean *to call / calling* me just now? My phone rang and then stopped.
- Are you keen *to play / on playing* video games? I find them really boring.
- They continued *to play / playing* long after the concert was supposed to end.
- I'd be interested *to hear / in hearing* more about your travels some time, but I'm in a bit of a hurry just now.
- If you think English is difficult, try *to learn / learning* Chinese!
- Can you speak to Harriet? I'm afraid *to ask / of asking* her myself.

- Don't stop *to sing / singing* on my account. I'm not planning on staying long.
- Did you remember *to post / posting* my letter? I hope so, because it was really urgent.

3 Read the sentences. Then write sentences using *It + be + adjective + infinitive or -ing form*.

- Typing fast without making mistakes is impossible.
It's impossible _____.
- Spending the weekend with my family was great.
It was great _____.
- Trying to get a definite answer out of him is useless.
It's useless _____.
- Speaking with your mouth full is rude.
It's rude _____.
- Seeing their living conditions was shocking.
It was shocking _____.
- Taking photos of people without their permission is wrong.
It's wrong _____.

4 Rewrite the sentences using a *that*-clause.

- She felt certain of winning.
She felt certain that _____.
- I was unaware of them being uncomfortable with the idea.
I was unaware that _____.
- He was convinced of being in the right.
He was convinced that _____.
- I'm angry about them wasting so much of my time.
I'm angry that _____.
- Her parents were delighted to have finally met her fiancé, Adriano.
Her parents were delighted that _____.
- People are amazed at his rapid rise to fame.
People are amazed that _____.

5 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

- She's very good in doing mental arithmetic.

- I'm frightened of to go in elevators.

- She stopped to smoke a few months ago.

- He accused me to be lazy.

- I'm very interested to learn about other cultures.

- It is free visiting the museum on Sundays.
