

Verb Patterns

Sometimes we follow verbs with other verbs:

- **Auxiliary:** I do not like music.
- **Modal:** I cannot see you.
- **Verb Pattern:** I want to fix my shoulder. ~~I want fix~~

There are rules when we do this but it's not always easy to spot when we should use them!

Here is some guidance:

- 1) **verb pattern:** one verb, followed by an action
- 2) Sometimes the same verb can be followed by different verb patterns but sometimes it cannot
- 3) Sometimes this means the same thing: eg prefer
- 4) Sometimes it means something different:

try	I <u>tried to open</u> the window. (I couldn't open) I <i>tried</i> <u>opening</u> the window. (I opened the window but it didn't help)
stop	I <u>stopped to smoke</u> . (I stopped my activity and I had a cigarette) I <u>stopped smoking</u> . (I used to have a habit and I quit)

Here are the four basic patterns:

to + infinitive	gerund	object + to + infinitive	Preposition + gerund
intend prefer promise refuse want try wait agree wish offer need	advise prefer require risk deny try involve delay consider	advise encourage require remind want order tell need	intend on admit to approve of plan on refrain from think about involve

Exercise 1

Correct the sentences below:

1. I always enjoy to visit my parents.
2. I spent three hours wait for the bus!
3. I considered to have a child but decided to adopt instead.
4. I agreed looking after next door's dog while they were away.
5. I often offer in cooking dinner when I go to my mum's house.
6. The doctor advised to give up smoking.
7. I intend me to visit the USA next year.
8. My parents do not approve to smoke. They think it is smelly and unhealthy.

Exercise 2

Use a verb from the box as the first verb in your pattern, followed by a verb in the box below:

to + infinitive	gerund	object + to + infinitive	Preposition + gerund
intend prefer promise refuse want try wait agree wish offer need help	advise prefer recommend require risk deny avoid try involve delay consider suggest	advise encourage require remind want order tell need help	intend on admit to approve of plan on refrain from think about involve in help with

set	eat	stay up	lose	participate	play	
steal	cut out	move	jog	rest	do	travel

- 1) Ok, Mr Smith. I some exercise straight away. I don't because it has a terrible effect on your knee joints.
- 2) Where is Peter? I alarm clock but I think he forgot. He should really late.
- 3) Have you to a new city for work? Sometimes you when the job market is bad in your hometown.
- 4) A woman, in her twenties, the Queen's favourite horse last week. At first she it but eventually she confessed.

- 5) The doctor weight. He it but now he's saying that he desserts! Last night he asked for a cake and when I brought him an apple, he it.
- 6) Mrs Johnson, I hope you are not in that big football match next week. I for at least a month, so don't even

Answers

Exercise 1

1. I always enjoy **visiting** my parents.
2. I spent three hours **waiting** for the bus!
3. I considered **having** a child but decided to adopt instead.
4. I agreed **to look after** next door's dog while they were away.
5. I often offer **to cook** dinner when I go to my mum's house.
6. The doctor **advised me to give up** smoking.
7. I **intend to** visit the USA next year.
8. My parents do not approve **of smoking**. They think it is smelly and unhealthy.

Exercise 2

- 1) Ok, Mr Smith. I **advise/recommend doing** some exercise straight away. I don't **recommend jogging**, because it has a terrible effect on your knee joints.
- 2) Where is Peter? I **told/ reminded / advised him to set** alarm clock but I think he forgot. He should really **refrain from/ avoid staying up** late.
- 3) Have you **tried moving** to a new city for work? Sometimes you **need to travel** when the job market is bad in your hometown.
- 4) A woman, in her twenties, ...**admitted to stealing** the Queen's favourite horse last week. At first she **denied stealing / doing / being involved in** it but eventually she confessed.
- 5) The doctor **advised my husband to lose** weight. He **agreed to do** it **but** now he's saying that he **wants to eat / refuses to cut out** desserts! Last night he asked for a cake and when I brought him an apple, he **refused to eat** it.
- 6) Mrs Johnson, I hope you are not **intending to play / intending on/ thinking about/ planning on playing** in that big football match next week. I **advised / need / want / you / am ordering you to rest** for at least a month, so don't even **think about participating/playing** !