

Verb Patterns

Sometimes we follow verbs with other verbs:

- **Auxiliary:**

have: I have broken my ankle.

be: Are you going to the match?

do: Do you have a watch?

- **Modal:**

I can speak French.

I should not be here.

I must wear a uniform.

- **Verb Pattern:**

I need to go to the bathroom.

~~I want going to the bathroom.~~

There are rules when we make verb patterns but it's not always easy to spot when we should use them!

Here is some guidance:

- 1) A verb pattern is: *verb + action*
- 2) Sometimes the same verb can be followed by different forms: *infinitives / gerund*
- 3) Sometimes this means the same thing:
 - I prefer waking up late to waking up early.
 - I prefer to wake up late instead of waking up early.

- 4) Sometimes it means something different:

try	<p>Bibi <u>tried to open</u> the window.</p> <p>The window did not open. Maybe it was painted shut. Maybe it was nailed shut.</p> <p>Bibi <u>tried opening</u> the window.</p> <p>The window opened – but it didn't help. The room was still hot.</p>
stop	<p>Mr Smith <u>stopped to smoke</u> 15 years ago.</p> <p>Stop doing one action, so you can have a cigarette.</p> <p>He stopped to smoke.</p> <p><i>Mr Smith stopped smoking 15 years ago.</i></p> <p>He doesn't smoke as a habit now. He has not smoked as a habit for 15 years.</p>

Here are the four basic patterns:

1. I **intend to take** the OET test in November. **verb + infinitive**
2. The doctor **advised losing** weight. **verb + gerund**
3. The doctor **advised Mr Smith to lose** weight. **verb + object + infinitive**
4. I **intend on taking** the OET test in November. **verb + preposition + gerund**

to + infinitive	gerund	object + to + infinitive	Preposition + gerund
intend prefer promise refuse want try wish	advise prefer require risk deny try consider	advise encourage require remind want prefer	intend on admit to approve of plan on refrain from think about

Exercise 1: Which box would you put the following verbs into? (Clue – it could be more than one!)

wish	tell	offer	need	consider	involve
	order	delay	agree	think	

Important! When objects are involved, the passive can be used:

advise

active: The doctor **advised** Mr Smith **to improve** his lifestyle.

passive: Mr Smith **was advised to improve** his lifestyle.

need

active: Mr Smith **needs to do** cardio exercises.

passive: Cardio exercises **need to be done**.

Exercise 2

Choose a verb from table 1 and follow it with the correct form of the verb in table 2:

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

cut down	change	drink	commence	have	become	stay	do
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1. Mr Smith physio after his wedding.
2. Most patientsa regular GP. Relationships are important.
3. Ms Johnsonin bed. She was found wandering in the hall.
4. Harry Greenthe cholesterol in his diet. He has been set a target.
5. Mrs Windsorexercise. Mobility is key for her at this stage.
6. Danny Farrellyover 40 units of alcohol daily. That explains his results.
7. Mr Stevens' friendan organ donor. They are a match.
8. Ms Smith's dressing daily. Please keep the wound clean.

Answers

Exercise 1

to + infinitive	gerund	object + to + infinitive	Preposition + gerund
intend prefer promise refuse want try wait wish offer need agree	advise prefer require risk deny try need consider delay	advise encourage require remind want tell need order	intend on admit to approve of plan on refrain from involve in think about
Last night, I was feeding my son but he <u>refused to eat</u> .	The thief <u>denied stealing the bike</u> .	The doctor <u>advised Mr Smith to lose weight</u> .	The thief <u>admitted to stealing the bike</u> .

Exercise 2

- Mr Smith **was advised to do** physio after his wedding.
- Most patients **prefer to have / having** a regular GP. Relationships are important.
- Ms Johnson **refused to stay / needs to stay** in bed. She was found wandering in the hall.
- Harry Green **is intending / is required to cut down** the cholesterol in his diet. He has been set a target.
- Mrs Windsor **has been advised / encouraged to do more** exercise. Mobility is key for her at this stage.
- Danny Farrelly **admitted to drinking** over 40 units of alcohol daily. That explains his results.
- Mr Stevens' friend **is planning on/ thinking about becoming / agreed to become** an organ donor. They are a match.
- Ms Smith's dressing **requires changing / needs to be changed** daily. Please keep the wound clean.