

Verb Patterns

Sometimes we follow verbs with other verbs:

- **Auxiliary:**

have: I have eaten breakfast.

be: I am listening. / I was hurt by an arrow.

do: Do you like sport? I do not enjoy cooking.

- **Modal:**

I can eat a lot.

I must leave now.

I should visit my parents more.

- **Verb Pattern:**

I want to pass my exam.

~~I want to passing my exam.~~

~~I want passing my exam.~~

~~I want pass my exam.~~

Some Guidance

1. **Verb pattern:** verb + action
2. **Sometimes verbs can be followed by different forms:** infinitives / gerunds
3. **Sometimes when we use a different form the meaning is the same:**

I would prefer to be a surgeon.

I would prefer being a surgeon.

4. **Sometimes when we use a different form the meaning is different:**

try	<p>Kristina tried <u>to open</u> the window. (the window was locked – Kristina could not open it)</p> <p>Kristina tried <u>opening</u> the window. (The window opened but it didn't really help)</p> <p>Mrs Johnson – Osteoarthritis – knees. Weight = 95 kg</p> <p>Mrs Johnson tried to lose weight. (she didn't lose weight = no change in her knees Weight = 95kg)</p> <p>Mrs Johnson tried losing weight. (she did lose weight = 78kg but no change in her knees)</p>
stop	<p>Mrs Johnson stopped <u>smoking</u>. (She ceased her habit)</p>

	Mrs Johnson stopped <u>to smoke</u> . (She momentarily stopped an activity so she could have a cigarette)
--	---

Here are the four basic patterns:

1. I intend to take the OET test in November. Verb + to + infinitive
2. The doctor advised losing weight. Verb + gerund
3. The doctor advised Mr Smith to lose weight. Verb + object + to + 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	advise prefer require risk deny try	advise encourage require remind want prefer	intend on admit to approve of plan on refrain from

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

tell	offer	need	consider
order	delay	agree	think

See below for answers

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

need

active: John **needs to do** his homework.

passive: John's homework **needs to be done**.

active: A surgeon needs to remove John's appendix.

passive: John's appendix needs to be removed.

advise

Active: **The doctor** **advised** **Mr Smith** **to lose** weight.

Passive: **Mr Smith** was **advised to lose** weight.

With gerund:

advise

active: **The doctor** **advised** **losing** weight.

passive: Losing weight was advised.

Need

John Smith's lungs. He has cystic fibrosis. It's getting worse.

- John Smith's lungs need to be replaced.
- John Smith's lungs need replacing.

Exercise 2

Choose a verb from table 1 and follow it with the correct form of the verb for each question:

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 stop	advise encourage require remind want tell need order ask	intend on admit to approve of plan on refrain from think about

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

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</u> the bike.	The doctor <u>advised Mr Smith to lose</u> weight.	The thief <u>admitted to stealing</u> the bike.

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.