

Verbs that can be followed by infinitives

Many non-auxiliary verbs can be followed by infinitives.

It is going to rain.

I don't want to see him again.

I expect to start in the evening.

Your hair needs to be cut.

The roof needs to be repaired.

Common verbs that can be followed by infinitives are:

Afford, agree, appear, arrange, ask, attempt, beg, begin, care, choose, consent, continue, dare, decide, expect, fail, forget, happen, hate, help, hesitate, hope, intend, learn, like, love, manage, mean, neglect, offer, prefer, prepare, pretend, promise, propose, refuse, regret, remember, seem, start, trouble, try, want, wish.

Some of these verbs can be followed by object + infinitive.

I want him to study medicine.

I expect them to reach in time.

He asked me to leave.

Some of these verbs can also be followed by -ing forms. Compare:

She loves knitting sweaters.

She loves to knit sweaters.

Sometimes there is a difference of meaning.

Compare:

She loves singing. (A general statement about her likes.)

She loves to sing this song with me. (A more definite statement about a particular occasion)

You must remember writing to her six months ago. (Here the gerund refers to an action that happened in the past.)

You must remember to write to her tomorrow. (Here the infinitive refers to an action that is

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going to take place in the future.)