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Verb Patterns with Infinitives Without 'To'

Imperatives

We use imperatives to tell people what to do. They can be used to give instructions, give strong orders or give friendly invitations.

The positive imperative is the infinitive without 'to'.

- Come here!
- First, put the flour into the bowl. Then add the eggs.
- Have another biscuit!
- Be careful!
- Please slow down.

We make the negative with 'don't' or 'do not' + infinitive.

- Do not walk on the grass.
- Don't worry – everything will be fine.
- Don't touch the oven!
- Don't be silly!
- Please don't be late.

Let's

We use 'let's + infinitive' (without 'to') to make suggestions. It means the same as 'shall we + infinitive'. (Let's = let us.)

- Let's go to the cinema tonight.
- Let's have a coffee!
- Let's go out! I'm tired of staying at home

If we want to make a negative, we say 'let's + not + infinitive'.

- Let's not go home early.
- Let's not eat pasta again.
- Let's not wake up at 5 am!



Verb Patterns with Gerunds and 'To' + Infinitive

Verb + gerund

A gerund is verb + ing, like 'going' or 'seeing' or 'waiting'.

When we want to use two verbs together, the second verb is sometimes in the gerund. There's a list of verbs that are followed by the gerund and we need to learn it. For example, 'enjoy' and 'finish' are always followed by the gerund if there is a second verb.

- enjoy: I enjoyed seeing you.
- finish: We've finished writing the essay.

We most often use the gerund after 'love', 'like' and 'hate'.

- love: I love skiing.
- hate: She hates waiting.
- like: He really likes going to restaurants.

Verb + to + infinitive

On the other hand, some verbs are followed by 'to + infinitive' ('to go', 'to see' or 'to wait'). We need to learn the verbs that are followed by to + infinitive. Here are some common ones.

- need: She needs to study tonight.
- plan: I plan to get a new car soon.
- hope: They hope to meet Julie later.
- learn: He is learning to speak French.
- want: I want to buy this dress.