# ESOL Entry 3 – Verb Patterns 2 – Infinitives

# 1 of 28 - Welcome

In this unit, you will learn to use **verb patterns**. This is how a verb changes after it follows a different verb, an adjective or a preposition. We are going to focus on using the pattern to + verb after verbs and adjectives. We will also look at using to + verb to say why we do things.

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

* Use to + verb after certain verbs
* Use to + verb after adjectives
* Use to + verb to say why we do things

# 2 of 28 - Verb patterns

A pattern is something that is repeated. This means it is predictable.

In English, we have **verb patterns**. These are predictable pieces of grammar.

It is important to study this because it helps us to sound more natural and it

really helps with fluency. We looked at this in the unit ‘Verb Patterns 1’, but let’s refresh our memories.

Let’s start by looking at some sentences. Which ones are correct?

I enjoy to watch television.

I enjoy watching television.

I want to eat something.

I want eating something.

# 3 of 28 – What sounds correct

You probably already know which ones are correct:

We can’t say ‘I enjoy to watch television.’

We can say ‘I enjoy watching television.’

We can say ‘I want to eat something.’

We can’t say ‘I want eating something.’

Let’s look more closely at these sentences on the next slide.

# 4 of 28 – Using two verbs

A **verb** is a *doing* or *being* word. Notice how we have **two** **verbs** in each sentence.

In the first sentence we have **enjoy** and **watch**:

I **enjoy** **watch**ing television.

verb verb

In the second sentence we have **want** and **eat**:

I **want** to **eat** something.

verb verb

Notice how we change the second verb.

It isn’t usually natural to just have two verbs directly together.

We can’t say:

* I enjoy watch television.
* I want eat something.

# 5 of 28 – Verbs after enjoy and want

After the verb **enjoy**, if we have another verb, then we use **ing**.

I **enjoy** **watching** television.

verb + verb + ing

Also, after the verb **want**, if we have another verb, then we use **to** + **verb**.

I **want** **to eat** something.

verb + to + verb

# 6 of 28 – Verbs after enjoy and want - continued

After the verb **enjoy**, it isn’t natural to use **to** + **verb**:

I **enjoy** **watching** television.

verb + verb + ing

We can’t say ‘I **enjoy** **to watch** television.’

Also, after the verb **want**, , it isn’t natural to use **verb + ing**:

I **want** **to eat** something.

verb + to + verb

We can’t say ‘I **want** **eating** something.’

# 7 of 28 – Explaining verb patterns

Why can’t we say: I enjoy **to** watch television?

And why can’t we say: I want eat**ing** something?

This is because it’s not natural to use **enjoy** + **to** + **verb**.

And it’s not natural to use **want** + **verb** + **ing**..

They are not natural. They are not things that are typical in English.

The two main verb patterns are: **verb** + **verb** + **ing.**

and **verb** + **to** + **verb.**

# 8 of 28 – Verbs after enjoy and want

Let’s look at the **want** sentence again.

I **want** **to eat** something.

verb + to + verb

In English, the name for **a simple verb** is an **infinitive**.

An **infinitive** can be with or without **to**.

I need **to go** to town **to buy** some things for my home.

to + verb to + verb

= infinitive = infinitive

# 9 of 28 – Using infinitives

In English, we use infinitives for three main reasons. This video focuses on using **to + verb** after certain verbs. [Click here to watch the video.](https://howcollege-my.sharepoint.com/personal/e8078_howcollege_ac_uk/Documents/BLC%20Verb%20patterns%20%20(to)%20part%201%20intro.mp4)

Video content:

Verb patterns. Verb + to + verb. Most verbs follow this pattern: want to, need to, decide to, plan to, remember to, try to. I want to sleep. I need to sit down. I decided to sell my car. I’m planning to get a new job. I’ve forgotten to bring my lunch. I promised to pay her back. I agreed to give her a lift.

The first verb is the MAIN VERB. I want to sleep. The fist verb tells us the tense. I wanted to sleep. I’m trying to work. Only the first verb can use a helping word. I didn’t try to fix it. The second verb can’t have a helping word. We can’t say ‘I tried to didn’t fix it.’ We say ‘I tried not to fix it.’

The best way to think of these is…agree to, decide to, try to, remember to…as collocations. Agree not to, decide not to, try not to, remember not to. A collocation is a typical, everyday expression. These are some common verbs that are followed by to + verb: try. I tried to open the jar, but I couldn’t. Prefer. I prefer to make dinner as soon as I get home. Hope. She’s hoping to hear from them next week. Refuse. They refused to give me my money back. Agree. We agreed to pay half each for the holiday. Promise. Do you promise to be back before 11? Choose. I chose to go home after the lesson finished. Decide. I’ve decided to start exercising more. Expect. I expect to hear from them next week. Forget. We’ve forgotten to bring our passports. Mean. I meant to tell you about it, but I forgot. Plan. She’s planning to get married in the summer.

# 10 of 28 – Video recap

Let’s look back at the examples from the video.

* I tried **to open the** jar, but I couldn’t.
* I prefer **to make** dinner as soon as I get home.
* She’s hoping **to hear** from them next week.
* They refused **to give** me my money back.
* We agreed **to pay** half each for the holiday.
* Do you promise **to be** back before 11?
* I chose **to go** home after the lesson finished.
* I’ve decided **to start** exercising more.
* I expect **to hear** from them next week.
* We’ve forgotten **to bring** our passports.
* I meant **to tell** you about it, but I forgot.
* She’s planning **to get** married in the summer.

Notice how **to + verb** helps to link the different ideas in each sentence.

# 11 of 28 – Question 1

Let’s practise what we’ve learnt. Match the endings on the right to complete the sentences.

1. I don’t want to go

2. If you move to another

3. If it’s safe, one day I plan

4. My daughter has decided to

5. During the week, I prefer

6. I intended to catch the train,

7. I can’t believe it! Do you mean

8. People in the UK tend not to

|  |
| --- |
| spend the summer with her dad. |
| to tell me you’ve lost my car?! |
| spend a lot of time outside. |
| out if it’s raining. |
| country, it’s not easy at first. |
| to return to my country. |
| not to go out at night. |
| but I was too late. |

**answers:**

1. I don’t want to go out if it’s raining.

2. If you move to another country, it’s not easy at first.

3. If it’s safe, one day I plan to return to my country.

4. My daughter has decided to spend the summer with her dad.

5. During the week, I prefernot to go out at night.

6. I intended to catch the train but I was too late.

7. I can’t believe it! Do you mean to tell me you’ve lost my car?!

8. People in the UK tend not to spend a lot of time outside.

# 12 of 28 – Adjective + infinitive

In English, we use infinitives for three main reasons. This video focuses on using **to + verb** after certain adjectives. [Click here to watch the video and then take a little test after it.](https://howcollege-my.sharepoint.com/personal/e8078_howcollege_ac_uk/Documents/BLC%20Verb%20patterns%20(to)%20part%202%20adjectives.mp4)

Video Content:

Verb patterns. Adjective + to + verb.

When a verb follows an adjective, we use to: It’s nice to say thank you. It’s difficult to learn Welsh. To make negatives, we have a choice. Look at where not is: It’s rude not to say thank you. It’s not difficult to learn Welsh. It’s rude not to say thank you. The negative of to say. It’s not difficult to learn Welsh. The negative of difficult. It’s not healthy to eat lots of sugar. = It’s healthy not to eat lots of sugar. Think of the adjective and to as fixed together: easy to nice to difficult to good to healthy to inserting to boring to stupid to bad to kind to. It’s easy to boil an egg. It’s difficult to fix a car. It’s nice to go for a walk. It’s easy not to do any exercise. It’s difficult not to be lazy. It’s nice not to do anything after work. It’s healthy to eat fruit. It’s interesting to read. It’s boring to wait for a bus. It’s healthy not to eat lots of sugar. It’s interesting not to watch TV all day. It’s boring not to do anything all day. It’s stupid to waste money. It’s bad to start smoking. It’s kind to help strangers. It’s stupid not to save money. It’s bad not to be nice to other people. It’s kind not to complain all the time.

# 13 of 28 – Question 2

Let’s read about a person who moved to the UK a few years ago.

Look at the adjective in bold. Match the infinitives into the correct gap.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| to do | to move | to leave | to come | to understand |

Although I love living in the UK, I’m also very **proud** **BLANK** from my country. It’s **hard BLANK** to another country, and it’s certainly **not easy** **BLANK** everything. However, I was **happy BLANK** it, but I also felt **sad** my home and family.

The correct response is:

Although I love living in the UK, I’m also very **proud** to come from my country. It’s **hard** to move to another country, and it’s certainly **not** **easy** to understand everything. However, I was **happy** to do it, but I also felt **sad** to leave my home and family.

# 14 of 28 – Question 3

Let’s read the next paragraph.

Look at the adjective **in bold**. Match the infinitives into the correct gap.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| to think | to do | to see |

When I first moved here, I thought it was **crazy** **BLANK** so many people driving on the left! Now I know that it is a **normal** thing **BLANK** this. I guess it was a **silly** thing **BLANK**, but it certainly was surprising to see.

The correct response is:

When I first moved here, I thought it was **crazy** to see so many people driving on the left! Now I know that it is a **normal** thing to do this. I guess it was a **silly** thing to think, but it certainly was surprising to see.

# 15 of 28 – Question 4

Let’s read the next paragraph.

Look at the adjective in bold. Match the infinitives into the correct gap.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| to meet | not to try | to find | to start | to live | to see | to start |

I was **lucky** **BLANK** a **nice** place **BLANK** and **BLANK** working within the first few weeks of moving here. I soon realised that it was **stupid** **BLANK** to learn English, so I went to my local college and enrolled on an ESOL course. It was **lovely** **BLANK** new people and I was **relieved BLANK** learning the language properly. After a few months, I was **delighted** **BLANK** that my English was getting better.

The correct response is:

I was **lucky** to find a **nice** place to live and to start working within the first few weeks of moving here. I soon realised that it was **stupid** not to try to learn English, so I went to my local college and enrolled on an ESOL course. It was **lovely** to meet new people and I was **relieved** to start learning the language properly. After a few months, I was **delighted** to see that my English was getting better.

# 16 of 28 – Question 5

Let’s read the next paragraph.

Look at the adjective in bold. Match the infinitives into the correct gap.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| to see | to have | to learn |

As I said, I love living in the UK because it’s **nice** **BLANK** lots of new things, and **BLANK** lots of new experiences. I’m often **amazed** **BLANK** how different Britain is to my country, and it’s fun to look for these differences.

The correct response is:

As I said, I love living in the UK because it’s **nice** to learn lots of new things, and to have lots of new experiences. I’m often **amazed** to see how different Britain is to my country, and it’s fun to look for these differences.

# 17 of 28 – Infinitive of purpose

Another use for **to** + **verb** is to say why we do something.

It shows the purpose of our actions:

A: I went to the library.

B: Why?

A: **To get** a book for my son.

to + verb

We can change this into one sentence:

I went to the library **to get** a book for my son.

to + verb answers the ‘why?’ question

# 18 of 28 – Infinitive of purpose - videos

In English, we use infinitives for three main reasons. This video focuses on using **to + verb** to show the reason we do things. [Click here to watch the video.](https://howcollege-my.sharepoint.com/personal/e8078_howcollege_ac_uk/Documents/BLC%20Verb%20patterns%20-%20infinitive%20of%20purpose.mp4)

Video content:

Verb patterns. To + verb. Infinitive of purpose.

Why does he go cycling? To keep fit. He goes cycling. Why? He goes cycling to keep fit. Why did they go to Egypt? To see the pyramids. They went to Egypt. Why? They went to Egypt to see the pyramids. Why did they go up the hill? To watch the sunset. They went up the hill to watch the sunset. Why did they go outside? To build a snowman. They went outside to build a snowman. Why do towns and cities have these things. To clean waste water. They are used to clean waste water.

# 19 of 28 – Question 6

We use **to + verb** when we want to show a reason. Let’s practise this.

Read the sentence beginnings. Choose the best ending for each to match.

|  |
| --- |
| to stop the flies getting in. |
| to change gear. |
| to be smart for the wedding. |
| to withdraw some money. |
| to put this picture up with? |
| to catch my flight. |
| to go the dentist. |
| to get a bite to eat. |

1. I’ve been out to the bank

2. We’ve closed our windows

3. She left work early

4. I’ve got to get up early

5. We stopped at the services

6. Depress the clutch pedal

7. Put your best clothes on

8. Have you got a hammer

**The correct response is:**

1. I’ve been out to the bank to withdraw some money.

2. We’ve closed our windows to stop the flies getting in.

3. She left work early to go the dentist.

4. I’ve got to get up early to catch my flight.

5. We stopped at the services to get a bite to eat.

6. Depress the clutch pedal to change gear.

7. Put your best clothes on to be smart for the wedding.

8. Have you got a hammer to put this picture up with?

# 20 of 28 – Question 7

Earlier, we looked at using **verb** + **verb** + **ing**. Let’s take another quiz to see if we know which verbs use **verb** **+** **ing** and which verbs use **to + verb**.

Match the correct words into the spaces.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| finished | learning | don’t mind | want | enjoy | decided |

1. Do you **BLANK** to watch football on the TV?

2. Do you **BLANK** watching football on TV?

3. Last week, we **BLANK** to buy a new car.

4. I finally **BLANK** reading my book after 2 years.

5. I’m **BLANK** to play guitar.

6. I **BLANK** giving you a lift.

The correct response is:

1. Do you **want** to watch football on the TV?

2. Do you **enjoy** watching football on TV?

3. Last week, we **decided** to buy a new car.

4. I finally **finished** reading my book after 2 years.

5. I’m **learning** to play guitar.

6. I **don’t mind** giving you a lift.

# 21 of 28 – Gerund or infinitive - recap

Let’s look at the answers. Think about what follows the verbs in **bold**.

Do you **want** to watch football on the TV?

Do you **enjoy** watching football on TV?

Last week, we **decided** to buy a new car.

I finally finished **reading** my book after 2 years.

I’m **learning** to play guitar.

I **don’t mind** giving you a lift.

After **want**, **decide** and **learn**, we use to + verb.

After **enjoy**, **finish** and **mind**, we use verb + ing.

# 22 of 28 – Question 8

Let’s take another quiz. Which verbs use **verb** **+** **ing** and which verbs use **to + verb?**

Match the correct words into the spaces.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| stop | promise | I’d like | spends | planning | tried |

**BLANK** to play guitar.

Please **BLANK** shouting!

I **BLANK** to pass my driving test, but I was too nervous.

We’re **BLANK** to move home in the summer.

I **BLANK** to pay you back.

He **BLANK** all day playing computer games.

The correct response is:

**I’d like** to play guitar.

Please **stop** shouting!

I **tried** to pass my driving test, but I was too nervous.

We’re **planning** to move home in the summer.

I **promise** to pay you back.

He **spends** all day playing computer games.

# 23 of 28 – Gerund or infinitive – recap 2

Let’s look at the answers. Again, think about what follows the verbs **in bold**.

**I’d like** **to play** guitar.

Please **stop** **shouting**!

I **tried** **to pass** my driving test, but I was too nervous.

We’re **planning** **to move** home in the summer.

I **promise** **to pay** you back.

He **spends** all day **playing** computer games.

After **want**, **decide** and **learn**, we use **to + verb**.

After **enjoy**, **finish** and **mind**, we use **verb + ing**.

# 24 of 28 – Gerund or infinitive - extension

Here is an extra challenge. If you get any answers wrong, it is not a bad thing.

Usually we have to learn **verb patterns** one at a time, so if you get a wrong answer, it is a good opportunity to learn!

For each example, complete the sentences. Use the verbs in brackets ( ) with **to** or **ing**. Think about the answer then see if you were correct.

\*e.g. Are you good at playing tennis? (**play**)

I hope to hear from you soon. (**hear**)

# 25 of 28 – Gerund or infinitive – extension quiz

Complete the sentences. Use the verbs in brackets with **to** or **ing**.

1. We need **BLANK** some more milk. (**get**)

2. I’m thinking of **BLANK** to the cinema later? (**go**)

3. Don’t forget **BLANK** the door. (**lock**)

4. She really enjoys **BLANK** me with the shopping. (**help**)

5. I want to apologise for BLANK late. (**be**)

6. They offered **BLANK** me a lift to the station. (**give**)

The correct responses are:

1. We need to get some more milk.

**Response to any answer:** after ‘**need**’ use ‘to’

2. I’m thinking of going to the cinema later?

**Response to any answer:** after a preposition use ‘ing’

3. Don’t forget to lock the door.

**Response to any answer:** after ‘**forget**’ use ‘to’

4. She really enjoys helping me with the shopping.

**Response to any answer:** after ‘**enjoy**’ use ‘ing’

5. I want to apologise for being late.

**Response to any answer:** after a preposition use ‘ing’

6. They offered to give me a lift to the station.

**Response to any answer:** after ‘**offer**’ use ‘to’

# 26 of 28 – Gerund or infinitive – extension quiz 2

Complete the sentences. Use the verbs in brackets with **to** or **ing**.

7. We dream of **BLANK** house. (**move**)

8. Stop pretending **BLANK** ill. There’s nothing wrong with you! (**be**)

9. She’s afraid of **BLANK** out at night. (**go**)

10. I don’t agree with **BLANK** lots of money at Christmas. (**spend**)

11. Have you finished **BLANK** my car yet? (**fix**)

12. He insisted on **BLANK** for the meal. (**pay**)

The correct responses are:

7. We dream of moving house.

**Response to any answer:** after a preposition use ‘ing’

8. Stop pretending to be ill. There’s nothing wrong with you!

**Response to any answer:** after ‘**pretend**’ use ‘to’

9. She’s afraid of going out at night.

**Response to any answer:** after a preposition use ‘ing’

10. I don’t agree with spending lots of money at Christmas.

**Response to any answer:** after a preposition use ‘ing’

11. Have you finished fixing my car yet?

**Response to any answer:** after ‘**finish**’ use ‘to’

12. He insisted on paying for the meal.

**Response to any answer:** after a preposition use ‘ing’

# 27 of 28 – Writing task

[Click here to download the interactive PDF and complete the tasks.​](https://howcollege-my.sharepoint.com/personal/e8078_howcollege_ac_uk/Documents/Verb%20Patterns%20Reading%20and%20Writing%20Task.pdf)

This is designed to test your understanding of the unit and to develop your reading and writing skills.

# 28 of 28 – Session conclusion

Well done. You have completed this session on using **verb patterns**.

You should now be able to:

* Use to + verb after certain verbs
* Use to + verb after adjectives
* use to + verb to say why we do things

If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, please speak to your tutor for more help.