

# **VERB PATTERNS**

Identify and use verb patterns.



# LOOK AT THE PHOTO AND ANSWER QUESTIONS BELOW.

1. What can you see happening on the boat?
2. How would you describe the boat's design and color?
3. What is the person standing on the boat doing?
4. What do the flags on the boat suggest?
5. What kind of weather does the picture show?
6. Where do you think this boat might be located (harbor, river, seaside)?
7. What clues in the picture show that this might be a relaxed or recreational moment?
8. How would you describe the overall mood of the scene?

When Jane and Clive Green **stopped** working, they **decided** to go on a trip to Spain in their yacht. They **expected** to be away for about a week – but in the end, they **continued** travelling for sixteen years! After they reached Spain in their ten-metre yacht, they did not **fancy** returning home, so they **kept** sailing. After crossing the Atlantic, they **stopped** to explore the islands of the Caribbean for a while. Then they **continued** to sail west around the world. They **ended up** visiting 56 countries and sharing some amazing experiences. They particularly **enjoyed** swimming with seals near the Galápagos Islands. However, they **remember** feeling very anxious near Somalia because a boat would not **stop** following them and they had heard about pirates in that area. It was actually a fishing boat with an injured man on board, so Jane **offered** to help him before they continued on their way. They **managed** to pay for their trip by selling their house back in the UK. Most of the time, they could **afford** to buy food, but they ran out of money on an island near Fiji. Fortunately, a local woman **agreed** to give them a box of fruit and vegetables in exchange for some underwear!

1. Why did Jane and Clive originally travel to Spain, and how long did they actually end up travelling?

**Answer:** They travelled to Spain for a short trip in their yacht, expecting to be away for about a week, but they ended up travelling for sixteen years.

2. What made them feel very anxious near Somalia?

**Answer:** They felt anxious because a boat kept following them, and they had heard about pirates in that area.

3. How did they manage to pay for their long trip around the world?

**Answer:** They paid for their trip by selling their house back in the UK.

4. What happened when they ran out of money near Fiji?

**Answer:** A local woman agreed to give them a box of fruit and vegetables in exchange for some underwear.

# Verb patterns

## LEARN THIS! Verb patterns

- a** Some verbs are followed by the infinitive of another verb.  
*Do you want to go out? She hopes to be a teacher.*
- b** Some verbs are followed by the *-ing* form of another verb.  
*She always avoids paying. I spend a lot of time texting.*
- c** Some verbs are followed by either an infinitive or an *-ing* form without any change in meaning.
- d** Some verbs change their meaning depending on whether they are followed by an *-ing* form or an infinitive.  
*I didn't remember speaking to Jo.* (I forgot that I had spoken to her.)  
*I didn't remember to speak to Jo.* (I didn't speak to her.)
- e** The verbs *let* and *make* are followed by an infinitive without *to*.  
*She let me drive. I made her laugh.*

# Verb patterns

## 1. Verb + *to* + infinitive

Some verbs are followed by **to** + the base form of another verb.

Examples:

- *She wants **to go** home.*
- *They hope **to travel** next year.*
- *He decided **to leave** early.*

Common verbs: **want, hope, decide, plan, need, learn, try**

Teaching tip:

Use “**to**” when the action is about the **future** or a **goal**.

# Verb patterns

## 2. Verb + *-ing* (Gerund)

Some verbs are followed by a verb ending in **-ing**.

Examples:

She enjoys **swimming**.

He avoids **driving** at night.

They finished **eating**.

Common verbs: enjoy, avoid, finish, mind, suggest, consider

Teaching tip:

Use “*-ing*” when the action feels *general, habitual, or an activity*.

# Verb patterns

## 3. Verb + *to* OR *-ing* (same meaning)

Some verbs can be followed by **either form with no change in meaning.**

Examples:

I like **to read.**

I like **reading.**

(Meaning stays the same)

These verbs: **like, love, hate, start, begin**

Teaching tip:

Both forms are correct; choose the one that “**sounds natural**” to you.

# Verb patterns

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# Verb patterns

## 4. Verb + *to* OR *-ing* (different meaning)

Some verbs change their meaning depending on whether they are followed by **to** or **-ing**.

Example with *remember*:

I remembered **meeting** her. (I met her before, and I remember it now)

I remembered **to meet** her. (I did not forget; I *remembered* that I needed to meet her)

Teaching tip:

*-ing* = remembering a **past action**

*to* = remembering a **future responsibility**

# Verb patterns

## 5. *Let* and *Make* + base verb

After *let* and *make*, the verb comes in the **base form** (without *to*).

Examples:

She let me **drive**.

They made him **leave**.

The film made me **cry**.

Teaching tip:

Never use “to” after let/make.

3 Read the **Learn this!** box. Then look at the highlighted verbs in the text above. Which verb pattern (a–e) does not have an example in the text?

4 Add the verbs from the text to the table. Can you add any more verbs?

verb + infinitive	verb + <i>-ing</i> form	infinitive or <i>-ing</i> (same meaning)	infinitive or <i>-ing</i> (different meaning)
choose want hope	not mind spend (time)	like start prefer	remember try

### **LEARN THIS!** Verb patterns

- a** Some verbs are followed by the infinitive of another verb.  
*Do you want to go out? She hopes to be a teacher.*
- b** Some verbs are followed by the *-ing* form of another verb.  
*She always avoids paying. I spend a lot of time texting.*
- c** Some verbs are followed by either an infinitive or an *-ing* form without any change in meaning.
- d** Some verbs change their meaning depending on whether they are followed by an *-ing* form or an infinitive.  
*I didn't remember speaking to Jo.* (I forgot that I had spoken to her.)  
*I didn't remember to speak to Jo.* (I didn't speak to her.)
- e** The verbs *let* and *make* are followed by an infinitive without *to*.  
*She let me drive. I made her laugh.*

**5** Compare sentences a and b. How is the meaning of the underlined verb different when followed by an *-ing* form or an infinitive?

- 1 a I tried buying a present for her, but she was still angry with me.  
b I tried to buy a present for her, but everything was too expensive.
- 2 a I stopped talking to my friend when the film started.  
b I stopped to talk to my friend when I met him in town.
- 3 a After the film, they went on eating popcorn.  
b After the film, they went on to eat pizza.
- 4 a I won't forget visiting the Taj Mahal – it was amazing.  
b I won't forget to visit the Taj Mahal – I've heard it's amazing.

**6 Complete the text with the infinitive (with or without to) or -ing form of the verbs in brackets.**

In the UK, people who are travelling long distances by road often stop <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) the night at a roadside hotel. But David and Jean Davidson have spent 22 years <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in one. The couple own a flat in Sheffield, in the north of England, but choose <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) at a Travelodge hotel about 65 km away.

The Davidsons first tried <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) Travelodge hotels in 1985. They enjoyed <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) there so much that gradually they stopped <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) back to their own home. When a new Travelodge opened 65 km from Sheffield, they decided <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (become) permanent guests. They like <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (live) there because it is safe and convenient, they say, and they don't mind <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) the noise from all the cars and lorries in the car park outside. The staff look after them well and let them <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (have) family get-togethers at the hotel.

The retired couple can afford <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (pay) for their room because they book it weeks in advance and get a good rate. In fact, last year, they managed <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (save) enough money for a three-week holiday abroad in the USA. And where did they end up <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (stay)? In an American Travelodge hotel, of course!

**7 SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Tell your partner about something that you:

1 loved doing.

2 once made somebody do.

3 often forget to do.

4 will never forget doing.

5 fancy doing after school.

6 will try doing one day.