

UNIT 3

VERBS FOLLOWED BY TO OR -ING

- Some verbs are always followed by an infinitive (to + verb): *When I was 15, I **decided to become** a professional musician.*
- Others are always followed by the *-ing* form of the verb: *Mike **kept falling** asleep at his desk.*
- There are some verbs which can be followed by either an infinitive or the *-ing* form. Unfortunately, there are no rules to help you work out whether verbs are followed by the infinitive or the *-ing* form, or either, so you will need to learn them.

Verbs followed by the infinitive

Afford	agree	arrange	attempt	choose	decide	expect
help	hope	intend	learn	manage	offer	plan
promise	refuse	seem	want	would like		

Verbs followed by *-ing*

Admit	avoid	can't stand*	consider	dislike*	don't mind*	
Enjoy*	fancy*	feel like	finish	give up	imagine	mind
miss	postpone	practice	prevent	put off	suggest	

Note: The verbs marked * all express likes or dislikes

Verbs followed by the infinitive or *-ing* with no difference in meaning

Begin	continue	intend	start
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Verbs followed by the infinitive or *-ing* with little difference in meaning

Hate	like	love	prefer
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There is a small difference in meaning between the two forms.

- *-ing* form: the action or experience is more important. *He likes **baking** cakes.*
- Infinitive form: result of the action is more important, or to describe a habit/ something we prefer. *He likes **to bake** cakes for special occasions.*
- The *-ing* form is more common after *hate* and *love*: *I hate **playing** ball sports. I love **doing** gymnastics.*

Verbs followed by the infinitive or <i>-ing</i>		
	Infinitive	<i>-ing</i>
Forget	<i>I forgot to say thank you.</i> (= I didn't say thank you)	<i>I forgot saying that</i> (= I have no memory of this)
Go on	<i>He went on to talk about his childhood.</i> (= This was the next thing he talked about.)	<i>He went on talking.</i> (= He continued talking)

remember	<i>I remembered to lock the door. (= I did something I had to do)</i>	<i>I remember locking the door. (= I have a memory of this.)</i>
Stop	<i>Let's stop to buy flowers. (= in order to do something)</i>	<i>Let's stop buying flowers. (= not continue)</i>
Try	<i>I tried to learn Japanese but it was too difficult, so I stopped. (= try something, and not succeed)</i>	<i>I tried eating spinach, but I didn't like it. (= try something and find out what it's like)</i>

- In negative sentences, we put *not* after the first verb.
*He's **decided not to go to university** next year*
*She **considered not going** away for the weekend. (but now she is going)*
- In sentences which include an object, we put the object after the first verb.
*I **helped my friend to fix** his car*
*We should **stop people using** their phones or eating while they're driving*

PRACTICE

Complete the conversation with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

A: It's really hot here, isn't it? Do you fancy (1) *going*..... (go) for a swim?

B: Yes, I'd love (2) *having*..... (have) a swim.

A: Can I suggest (3) *going*.....(go) this afternoon?

B: I'd planned (4) *going*.....(go) to the cinema this afternoon, but I don't mind (5) *doing*..... (do) that tomorrow instead.

A: I can't imagine (6) *living*..... (live) in a hot country all the time.

B: I'm sure you'd manage (7) *having*..... (have) a nice time.

A: Maybe I'd get used to it. I certainly enjoy (8) *spending*..... (spend) my holidays here.

Tick the pairs of sentences which have the same meanings

☒ **A** My boss continued talking even though it was time to go home
☐ **B** My boss continued to talk even though it was time to go home

☒ **A** I began to learn German two years ago.
☐ **B** I began learning German two years ago.

3 ☐ **A** Ben stopped to phone his parents
☐ **B** Ben stopped phoning his parents

4 ☐ **A** I prefer to watch football than to play it
☐ **B** I prefer watching football to playing it

5 ☐ **A** I like to watch the sunrise.
☐ **B** I like watching the sunrise.

6 ☐ **A** They went on to tell us about their holiday
☐ **B** They went on telling us about their holiday

PHRASAL VERBS

A phrasal verb is a verb with two or three parts. The meaning of the verb is sometimes different from the meaning of its separate parts. Phrasal verbs can combine verbs with prepositions or adverbs. For example: *to take off*, *to put on*, *to catch up with*, *to look forward to*.

There are two main types of phrasal verbs

- Verbs which need an object:
*She **took off** her hat*
*He **put on** his shoes*
*We're **looking forward to** our holiday*
- Verbs which do not need an object:
*They **set off** early*
*We **got up** late*
- Sometimes, it is possible to put the object in between the verb and the preposition/adverb. Sometimes, it is not.
*He **took** his hat **off***
*He **took** it **off***
~~*He **took off** it*~~

*We're **looking forward** to the weekend*

~~*We're **looking** the weekend **forward to***~~

PRACTICE

Underline the phrasal verbs in questions 1-6. Then match them with answers a-f.

1 What should you do if

Your TV breaks down?

2 Which of your parents
do you take after?

3 Do you like to dress
up when you go to a party?

4 Who do you really
look up to?

5 Do you ever have to
look after anyone?

6 What do you think
about people who show off?

a No, I prefer to wear my normal

clothes

b I don't like them

c Ask someone to repair it

d I'm like my mother

e My father. He's my hero

f I sometimes babysit my
Little brother

Rewrite the underlined words with a phrasal verb from the box. Make any other necessary changes.

Get on with give up look forward to sign up for take up

1 I have a good relationship with everyone in my family

I take up everyone in my family

2 I've put my name down for an English course.

I've sign up for an English course

3 I can't wait to see my friend again.

I look forward to see my friend again

4 My father has stopped eating sugar

My father has give up eating sugar

.....
5 My brother has just started playing basketball.
.....

My brother has just get on with basketball
.....

COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

We use comparative adjectives (e.g. *bigger than*) to compare two people or things and to say if one has more of a quality (e.g. size, height, etc.) than the other. Comparative adjectives are usually followed by *than*.

We use superlative adjectives (e.g. *the fastest*, *the most important*) to say that in a particular group, something has the most of a quality.

Regular adjectives

	comparative	Superlative
• For most adjectives, add <i>-er</i> or <i>-est</i> .	small → smaller <i>Italy is smaller than Spain.</i>	→ the smallest <i>Vatican City is the smallest country in the world.</i>
• For short adjectives ending in <i>-e</i> , add <i>-r</i> or <i>-st</i> .	large → larger <i>Canada is larger than China.</i>	→ the largest <i>Russia is the largest country in the world.</i>
• For short adjectives with a vowel + a consonant, double the consonant and add <i>-er</i> or <i>-est</i> .	hot → hotter <i>Algeria is hotter than Mexico.</i>	→ the hottest <i>Libya is the hottest country in the world.</i>
• For two-syllable adjectives ending in <i>-y</i> , change the <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add <i>-er</i> or <i>-est</i> .	heavy → heavier <i>Elephants are heavier than crocodiles.</i>	→ the heaviest <i>Blue whales are the heaviest animals in the world.</i>
• For some two-syllable adjectives, we can either add <i>-er</i> , <i>-est</i> or use <i>more</i> , <i>the most</i> . These are adjectives ending in <i>-ow</i> , <i>-le</i> , <i>-er</i> and <i>polite</i> , <i>quiet</i> , <i>common</i> and <i>stupid</i> .	<i>Mia is more polite than me.</i> (= <i>Mia is politer than me.</i>)	<i>Mia is the most polite student in the class.</i> (= <i>Mia is the politest student in the class.</i>)
• For longer adjectives, or two syllable adjectives ending in <i>-ful</i> , use <i>more/less</i> or <i>the most/least</i> in front of the adjective.	difficult → more/less difficult <i>Some people think it's more difficult to make friends when you are older.</i>	→ the most/least difficult <i>It is true that Japanese is the most difficult language for English speakers to learn?</i>

Irregular adjectives

There are three irregular adjectives: good, bad, far.

Bad → *worse* → *the worst*

Good → *better* → *the best*

Far → *farther/further* → *the farthest/furthest* *

*There is no difference in meaning, but further / the furthest is more common.

PRACTICE

- Complete the comparative and superlative adjectives.

1	Thin	thinner than	the thinnest
2	Nice	nicer than	the nicest
3	Lazy	lazier than	the laziest
4	Comfortable	than more comfortable than	the most comfortable
5	Good	better than	the best
6	Bad	Than worse than	the worst
7	Far	Farther/further than	The farthest/furthest

- Complete the sentences with the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

- It rained every day in December 2015 in Portland, USA. It was
December for 75 years. (wet)
- Some people think that Sydney Opera House is modern building in
the world. (beautiful)
- A blue whale is than an elephant. (heavy)
- I felt ill all weekend, but I'm much now. (good)
- This writer's new book is than her others. (bad)
- We've moved house. Now, we live from my office than we used to.
(far)

a bit, a little, slightly, (not (much), far, (not) a lot

We can use these words with comparative adjectives.

- We use *a bit, a little, slightly, not much* or *not a lot* to describe a small difference:
My brother is **a little** younger than me.
I'm **a bit** older than him.
- We use *much, a lot* or *far* to describe a large difference.
*I'm **much** fitter than my brother, but he's **a lot** faster than me.*
*He's **much** more polite than his cousin.*

(not) as.... as

- We use *as + adjective/adverb + as* to say that two things are the same.
*Hannah is **as tall as** Jess.*
*Today is **as warm as** yesterday.*
- We use *not as + adjective/adverb + as* to say that one thing is less than another.
*My brother **isn't as fit as** me. = I'm fitter than my brother.*
*I'm **not as fast as** my brother. = My brother is faster than me.*

PRACTICE

- Rewrite the sentences so that they mean the same thing as the original sentence.
Use the words in brackets.

- Roma is taller than Josh.
Josh .. is not as tall as Roma (not as)
- My old phone was cheap. My new phone is very expensive. My new phone is very expensive.
My new phone (much)
is much more expensive than my old phone
- Burgers aren't as healthy as fruit. Fruit is a lot more healthy... (a lot)
- Spain is a big country in Europe. It's 505,370 km². France is a little bigger, at 643,801 km². Spain is (a bit)
a bit smaller than France
- The old shopping centre was good, but the new one is much nicer.
The new shopping centre is (far)
further than the old shopping center

GRADABLE AND NON-GRADABLE ADJECTIVES

- Most adjectives are gradable. This means we can make them stronger or weaker by using words like *very*. We cannot use words like *completely* or *absolutely* with these adjectives.

✗ ~~I'm completely cold.~~

- ✓ I'm **very** cold.
- ✓ Our English exam was **fairly** difficult.
- ✓ Harry's new car is **quite** big, isn't it?
- ✓ Ben was **pretty** tired after a long day's work

- Non-gradable or extreme adjectives are adjectives which we cannot make stronger or weaker by using words like *very*. We can use these words with non-gradable adjectives: *completely*, *absolutely*, *totally*, *really*.

✗ ~~I'm very freezing.~~

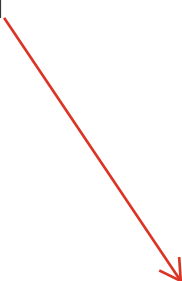
- ✓ I'm **absolutely** freezing.
- ✓ Our English exam was **absolutely** impossible.
- ✓ Harry's new car is **really** enormous, isn't it?
- ✓ Ben was **totally** exhausted after a long day's work.

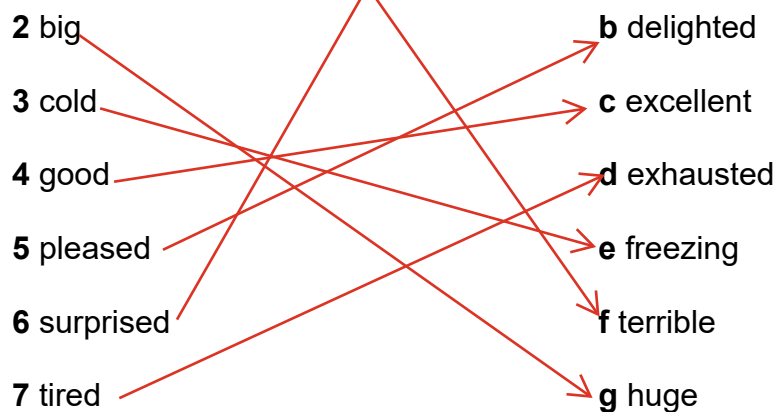
PRACTICE

- Match gradable adjectives 1-7 with non-gradable adjectives a-g.

1 bad

a amazed





2. Choose the correct options in italics.

1. My friend was absolutely *pleased/delighted* when she heard she'd passed her exam. Her parents were quite *surprised / amazed*, too. They thought she might fail.
2. The office heating system broke down, so we felt very *cold / freezing* all day.
3. I was totally *tired / exhausted* after running 10 kilometres.
4. I had a very *bad / terrible* night's sleep. That's why I'm pretty *tired / exhausted* now.
5. I really enjoyed the film last night. I thought it was absolutely *good / excellent*.
6. The audience for the concert was absolutely *big / huge*. I think there were thousands of people there.