
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute Grammar

Verb patterns



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Alice

Hello. Welcome to 6 Minute Grammar with me, Alice.

Finn

And me, Finn. Hello.

Alice

Today we're talking about verb patterns.

Finn

Yes: we're looking at what happens when we use two verbs together in English.

Alice

We'll be looking at four verb patterns – and there's a quiz at the end of the programme – so listen carefully!

Finn

So, on with the show! Our first pattern is: **verb plus gerund**.

Alice

A **gerund** is the **i-n-g** form of a ********* – words like **seeing**, **complaining** and **giving** are all *********.

Finn

And here's Catherine to give us some examples of the pattern verb plus *****.
Catherine.

Catherine

I really **enjoyed ******* Rachel again last night.

Jackie **kept *******, so I went home.

Would you **mind ******* me a lift to the station?

Finn

Thanks Catherine. So we had the verb **enjoy** plus the gerund **seeing**...

Alice

We had ********* plus **complaining...**

Finn

And the verb ********* plus the gerund **giving**.

Alice

Good. **Enjoy seeing; keep complaining; mind giving**. Other verbs that can be followed by gerunds include: *********, **practise, suggest**, and *********.

Finn

So I can say: I **suggest keeping** a list of verbs that take *********.

Alice

Haha, good example.

Finn

Thank you.

Alice

Now for the second pattern: **verb plus *******. An infinitive is the word **to** plus a base verb, for example: **to see, to drive, to study**. Some examples please Catherine?

Catherine

I really **want to ******* the football tonight.

My brother's **learning to *******.

Mario's **hoping to ******* medicine.

Finn

So that's: ******* to see, ***** to drive, ***** to study...** Other verbs in this group are *******, decide, choose** and *********. Now for the third pattern: these verbs can be followed by either a gerund or an *****- without changing the meaning. Some examples please Catherine.

Catherine

I've **started ******* Arabic - and my boyfriend's **started to ******* French.

Finn

So **started learning** and **started to learn** have more or less the same meaning. Now, another example please?

Catherine

Snow will **continue to ******* in the mountains and temperatures will **continue ******* throughout the night.

Finn

So **continue to fall** and **continue falling** have the same meaning.

Alice

OK. Time for pattern 4.

Finn

Yes - and this one's a bit tricky. With some verbs, you can use either a gerund or an infinitive afterwards, BUT...

Alice

...and it's a big but...

Finn

Yes... the ***** changes from gerund to infinitive.

Alice

So if I say... I **stopped** ***** **coffee** last week.

Finn

Well, I probably wouldn't believe you...

Alice

Yes, well... this means I drank coffee regularly in the past, but last week, I decided to give up coffee. I completely stopped and now I never drink coffee.

Finn

But, if I say, on my way home yesterday, I **stopped to** ***** a cup of coffee...

Alice

This means that yesterday you interrupted your journey and you went into a cafe for a cup of coffee.

Finn

So, very different meanings.

Alice

Yes. Here's an example, with the verb **remember**:

Catherine

We **remembered** ***** the door.

We **remembered to** ***** the door.

Finn

OK, in the first one, we formed a picture in our mind of us closing the door. The second example means we didn't ***** to close the door.

IDENT

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Alice

And it's time for a quiz. Question one. Which is correct: a) They **decided taking** the train – or b) They **decided to take** the train.

Finn

OK, so this is: They **decided** ***** the train. After decide, we need the *****.

Alice

Number 2: a) Catherine **hates cooking** in the evening. b) Catherine **hates to cook** in the evening.

Finn

And that's a trick question. They are actually ***** correct, because after hate, you can use ***** a gerund or an *****.

Alice

Yes you can. Finally, number 3: is it a) Do you **want to go** for a coffee? Or b) Do you **want going** for a coffee?

Finn

This one is: Do you **want** ***** for a coffee? Because after want you need the ***** ... but Alice?

Alice

Yes?

Finn

You said you'd stopped ***** coffee?!

Alice

Oh yes I did. Never mind. Thanks for listening and don't forget - there's more about this on our website at bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Grammar.

Both

Bye.

Finn

Time for a coffee?

Alice

Maybe *****.

Both

Bye.