**-ing form and to infinitive**

After certain verbs we use the -ing form, and after other verbs we use the infinitive. Sometimes we can use either form and there is no change in meaning.

**(Group 1): The –ing form is used directly after certain verbs like:**

Avoid/ enjoy/ finish/ practice/ stop/ suggest/ keep (on) / admit/ carry on/ consider/ delay/ deny/ give up/ involve/ postpone/ resist.

**Example**: - She started **working** and **earning** money.

* Students should consider **doing** a computer course.
* The course involves **learning** about the manipulation of digital images.
* Please keep on **saying** that.
* She denied **taking** the money.

**The –ing form is also used after prepositions.**

**Example:** - He is interested in **doing** research.

* Research Engineers find new and better ways of **doing** things.
* She succeeded in **finding** a post as a Research Engineer.
* She’s good at **speaking** French.
* I’m fond of **eating** seafood.

**(Group 2): We use to infinitive after certain verbs:**

Afford/ aim/ choose/ decide/ hope/ learn/ mean/ promise/ want/ agree/ attempt/ expect/ fail/ manage/ offer/ prepare/ propose.

**Example**: - She wanted **to leave** school.

* He wanted **to get** a qualification.
* He decided **to study**.
* The planners agreed **to make** the proposed changes.
* The Drillers managed **to dig** a new well.

**(Group 3): With some verbs, we can use both the –ing form and the to infinitive with little change of meaning. These include:**

Begin/ continue/ hate/ intend/ like/ love/ prefer/ start

**Example**: - We continued **practicing** our communication skills throughout the course.

* We continued **to practice** our communication skills throughout the course.
* He likes **to drink**/ **drinking** juice.
* She intends **to come**/ **coming** early.

**Note: We don’t generally use two – ing forms together**. Example: We are starting **to learn** about database systems **NOT** We are starting learning about database systems.

**Practice (1):**

1. Studying
2. Working
3. To repair
4. Taking
5. To start
6. To apply

**Practice 2:**

1. Maintaining/ repairing
2. Manufacturing/ designing
3. Making
4. Connecting
5. To turn
6. To measure
7. To do
8. Cutting
9. To transfer
10. To become.