

FCE RESULT: UNIT 2: -ING FORMS AND INFINITIVES

a) -ING FORMS

1. Verbs of likes and dislikes (verbs that express how we feel about something) usually take the -ing form after them:

can't stand, enjoy, don't mind, can't face, can't help, feel like, prefer, fancy, adore.

*Love, (dis)like, hate → normally take -ing form, but can also take infinitive with a slight change in meaning.

Verb+to+infinitive = describes a possible action, a specific situation

Verb+ing= describes the performance of this action

I'd **love to visit** the country – but I have to stay in the city.

I **love visiting** the country. It's so nice walking and getting some fresh air.

I **don't like going** to the dentist. (in general)

I **like to go** to the dentist once a year – it's important to take care of your teeth.

I **hate to tell** you this, but you look horrible.

I **hate making** you feel bad.

2. After all phrasal verbs:

I **gave up playing** the guitar.

I'm **looking forward to receiving** your letter.

3. Very often after prepositions, especially with fixed combinations of verbs/adjectives/nouns and a preposition:

After having dinner, he went out with his friends.

I'll phone you **before coming** here.

- ADJECTIVE + PREP

I'm **good at cooking**.

I'm **interested in knowing** more about your country.

- VERB + PREP

I hope I **succeed in becoming** famous.

I **did** it **without thinking**.

He **insisted on paying** for lunch.

I **thank** you **for helping** me with this.

- NOUN + PREP

The **idea of being** alone makes me sad.

A phobia is a **fear of having** a thing controlling you.

4. After certain verbs such as:
admit, avoid, consider, delay, deny, finish, involve, keep (=continue), miss, risk, suggest.
5. As the subject or object of a sentence when it refers to an abstract idea or a generalisation (=equals the infinitive form in Catalan/Spanish)

Smoking is bad for your health (=subject)

Going to the cinema is one of my favourite hobbies (=subject)

I find **painting** very creative. (=object)

b) TO+INFINITIVE

1. After certain verbs such as:

afford, agree, *begin, choose, continue, decide, expect, help, learn, manage, need, offer, plan, pretend, promise, refuse, seem, *start, threaten, want, would like/would love/ would prefer.

*Start, begin and continue can take -ing form or infinitive without any change in meaning.

He **started learning** the piano five years ago = He **started to learn** the piano five years ago.

2. After certain adjectives and nouns:

It was **easy to do**.

I was **happy to do it**.

Similar adjectives: amazed, certain, difficult, disappointed, free, glad, hard, likely, pleased, possible, simple, sure, surprised

It was a **surprise/pleasure to have** you here.

3. To express purpose: (=equals "per" in Catalan)

Why did you come to London? **To study** English.

I went to the shops **to buy** some tea.

4. (without TO) After make and let:

My mum usually **lets me go** to the cinema on Saturdays.

My sister **makes me help** her with her homework.

c) VERBS FOLLOWED BY -ING AND TO+INF WITH A CHANGE IN MEANING

-ing normally means the action is a past action

to+infinitive normally indicates future

1. Forget

I'll never **forget meeting** Leonardo Dicaprio (I'll always remember it).

I **forgot to post** my mum's card (I should have done it, but I haven't).

2. Regret

My sister **regrets leaving** school (She left school and now she's sorry she did it).

I **regret to inform** you that you've failed the test (I'm sorry to tell you this).

3. Remember

Do you **remember learning** to read? (Can you remember the past time?).

I must **remember to buy** my grandmother a present (I mustn't forget to do it later).

4. Stop

We **stopped talking** because we heard a noise outside (we were talking and we interrupted this activity).

They **stopped to have** a snack (they interrupted what they were doing in order to eat their snack).

5. Try

If you can't find the information in a book, **try looking** on the Internet (I advise this, maybe it'll give the results you want).

I **tried to repair** my bike, but I couldn't (=I made an effort to do it, but I wasn't successful).