

UNIT 57

Infinitive or -ing? (2) – begin, start, intend, continue, remember, try

a) begin start intend continue

These verbs can usually be followed by **-ing** or **to + infinitive**. So you can say:

- The baby **began crying**. or The baby **began to cry**.
- It has **started raining**. or It has **started to rain**.
- John **intends buying** a house. or John **intends to buy** a house.
- He **continued working** after his illness. or He **continued to work** after his illness.

b) **Remember to do and remember doing**

You **remember to do** something *before* you do it. **Remember to do something** is the opposite of 'forget to do something':

- I **remembered to lock** the door before I left but I forgot to shut the windows. (= I remembered to lock the door and then I locked it)
- Please **remember to post** the letter. (= don't forget to post it)

You **remember doing** something *after* you do it. **I remember doing something** = I did something and now I remember it:

- I clearly **remember locking** the door before I left. (= I locked it and now I clearly remember this)
- He could **remember driving** along the road just before the accident happened but he couldn't remember the accident itself.

c) **Try to do and try doing**

Try to do = attempt to do, make an effort to do:

- I was very tired. I **tried to keep** my eyes open but I couldn't.
- Please **try to be** quiet when you come home. Everyone will be asleep.

Try doing

Try also means 'do something as an experiment or test':

- **Try some** of this juice – perhaps you'll like it. (= drink some of it to see if you like it)
- We **tried every** hotel in the town but they were all full. (= we went to every hotel to see if they had a room)

If **try** (with this meaning) is followed by a verb, we say **try -ing**:

- 'I can't find anywhere to live.' 'Why don't you **try putting** an advertisement in the newspaper?' (= do this to see if it helps you to find a place to live)
- I've got a terrible headache. I **tried taking** an aspirin but it didn't help. (= I took an aspirin to see if it would stop my headache)

UNIT 57 Exercises

57.1 Here is some information about Tom when he was a child.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 He was in hospital when he was four. | 4 He cried on his first day at school. |
| 2 He went to Paris when he was eight. | 5 He said he wanted to be a doctor. |
| 3 He fell into the river. | 6 He was bitten by a dog. |

He can still remember 1, 2 and 4. But he can't remember 3, 5 and 6. Make sentences beginning He can remember ... or He can't remember ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 He can remember being in hospital. | 4 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 |

57.2 Your friend has some problems and you have to be helpful. For each problem write a question with try.

Example: I can't find anywhere to live. (put an advertisement in the newspaper)

Have you tried putting an advertisement in the newspaper?

- 1 My electric shaver is not working. (change the batteries)
Have you tried
- 2 I can't contact Fred. He's not at home. (phone him at work)
Have you
- 3 I'm having difficulty sleeping at night. (take sleeping tablets)
Have
- 4 The television picture isn't very good. (move the aerial)
.....

57.3 In this exercise you have to put the verb into the correct form, -ing or to + infinitive. (Sometimes either form is possible.)

Examples: Please remember to post (post) this letter.

John intends to buy (or buying) (buy) a house.

- 1 A: You lent me some money a few months ago.
B: Did I? That's strange. I don't remember (lend) you any money.
- 2 We tried (put) the fire out but we were unsuccessful. We had to call the fire-brigade.
- 3 When you see Tom, remember (give) him my regards, won't you?
- 4 What do you intend (do) about this problem?
- 5 Someone must have taken my bag. I clearly remember (leave) it by the window and now it has gone.
- 6 When she saw what had happened, she began (laugh) loudly.
- 7 Sue needed some money. She tried (ask) Gerry but he couldn't help her.
- 8 He tried (reach) the shelf but he wasn't tall enough.
- 9 'Did you remember (phone) Ann?' 'Oh no, I completely forgot.'
- 10 I asked them to be quiet but they continued (make) a lot of noise.