

-ING vs TO + VERB

Astuce principale

-ING → action **réelle**, vécue, ou générale → on est *dans* l'action ou le souvenir. **TO + VERB** → action **prévue**, à faire, ou intention → on regarde *vers* l'action.

1. Quand utiliser -ING

- Après certains verbes (souvent émotions, goûts, habitudes) :

enjoy, avoid, suggest, admit, consider, deny, miss, finish, give up, keep, can't stand, practice, be worth...

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→ 'I enjoy reading before bed.'
* Après une préposition (in, at, for, without, about, etc.) :
→ 'She's good at singing.'
* Comme sujet ou objet :
→ 'Swimming is good exercise.'
* Après certaines expressions fixes :
it's no use, it's worth, can't help, spend time...
→ 'It's worth trying again.'
* Pour les temps continus :
→ 'I'm studying now.'

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2. Quand utiliser TO + VERB

- Après certains verbes (souvent intention, décision, plan) :

want, need, decide, plan, hope, expect, promise, agree, refuse, afford, manage, learn...

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→ 'I decided to leave early.'
* Après des adjectifs + 'it' :
→ 'It's important to arrive on time.'
* Après certaines structures :
too + adj, adj + enough, first/last/best...
→ 'She's too young to drive.'
* Après verbe + objet + to + verb :
advise, allow, tell, ask, expect, want...
→ 'They told me to wait here.'

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3. Verbes qui acceptent les deux (sens différent)

Verbe	-ING = passé / expérience	TO + VERB = futur / intention
remember	I remember locking the door.	Remember to lock the door.
forget	I'll never forget meeting you.	Don't forget to meet her.
stop	He stopped smoking .	He stopped to smoke .
try	Try adding more salt.	Try to finish on time.
regret	I regret telling her.	I regret to tell you...
go on	She went on talking .	She went on to talk about...
like/love/hate	I love reading .	I love to read before bed.
mean	This means getting up early.	I meant to call you.

4. Mini-rappel

Ne pense pas seulement émotion vs rationnel — pense aussi **temps et perspective** :

- -ING → souvenir, expérience → on *vit* l'action.
- TO + VERB → but, plan → on *vise* l'action.

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