

## 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.
- 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':

- 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)