How do you learn new words?

Tick (✓) the techniques you use for learning new words in English.



A I translate it in my notebook in case I want to read it again later.

B I practise repeating the word a few times.

C I learn by listening to the new word.

D I need to write a sentence with it.

E I keep using it in conversation for the rest of the day.

How many did you tick? Can you think of any other techniques? Why not try all of them?

Presentation

The **main verb** in a sentence is sometimes followed by a second verb. This verb can be an infinitive or the *-ing* form.

*I **want** to read it again.*

*I **keep** using it in conversation.*

The choice depends on the main verb. Some verbs are always followed by a *to*-infinitive; some verbs are followed by the *-ing* form.

See Unit 73 for information about verbs that are followed by both forms.

verb + *to*-infinitive

Certain verbs are always followed by the *to*-infinitive form:

*I want **to read** it again later.*

Common verbs followed by *to*-infinitive: *agree, decide, expect, hope, learn, manage, need, offer, plan, promise, seem, want*

verb + *-ing* form

Certain verbs are always followed by the *-ing* form:

*I keep **using** it in conversation for the rest of the day.*

Common verbs only followed by the *-ing* form: *consider, dislike, enjoy, finish, imagine, involve, keep, mind, postpone, practise, suggest*

verb + preposition + *-ing* form

When a preposition follows the first verb, the next verb uses the *-ing* form:

*Which of these techniques do you use for **learning** new words in English?*

*I learn by **hearing** the new word.*

Common verbs followed by a preposition + the *-ing* form: *apologize for, learn by / from, plan on, stop from, thank for, think of / about, use for, worry about*

verb + bare infinitive (infinitive without *to*)

You use the bare infinitive (infinitive without *to*) with *do / does / did* when you form negatives and questions and with modal verbs, e.g. *can, must, will:*

*How do you **learn** new words?*

*How many did you **tick?***

*Can you **think** of any other techniques?*

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1 Complete the sentences with the correct words a, b or c.

1 I never learn by ..... words down.
a write **b** to write **c** writing

2 Can we ..... that film again? It's great!
a watch **b** to watch **c** watching

3 Don't keep ..... your music up so loud.
a turn **b** to turn **c** turning

4 Did the owners of the company agree ..... us more money?
a pay **b** to pay **c** paying

5 I hope ..... a professional football player after school.
a become **b** to become **c** becoming

6 How many new words do you ..... a day?
a learn **b** to learn **c** learning

7 My neighbour paid me for ..... his car.
a clean **b** to clean **c** cleaning

8 Let's postpone ..... out tonight. I'm too busy.
a go **b** to go **c** going

9 This mp3 player doesn't seem .....
a work **b** to work **c** working

10 Are you going to apologise for ..... your little sister?
a hit **b** to hit **c** hitting

2 Cross out *to* where necessary.

1 Can you to help me?
2 Can you to stay late at work tonight?
3 They've decided to get married.
4 When do they to plan to get married?
5 Do you want to try that exercise again?
6 How long did you to work here?
7 Did you want to speak to someone?
8 Will you to be able to finish the project on your own?
9 You mustn't to drive so fast on this road.
10 I don't expect to be back here for a while.

3 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs. Then listen and check.



Good morning everyone and thank you for [1] coming (come) today. Do you dislike [2] ..... (look) for new words in a thick, heavy dictionary? Can you imagine [3] ..... (have) instant access to the world's biggest dictionary in every language? Well, today I want [4] ..... (present) the latest in electronic dictionaries, the XtraLingo. It's so simple that anyone can [5] ..... (use) it. First of all, you need [6] ..... (press) the ON button. Then you begin by [7] ..... (type) in a word in English and the machine will automatically [8] ..... (give) you the translation in any language. And don't worry about [9] ..... (carry) it around because the XtraLingo is the size of a mobile phone.

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