



Verb Patterns

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINES

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

UNIVERSITY OF BASRAH

ENGLISH_2: PRE-INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

LECTURE #5

2021-2022

Verb Patterns

Here are four verb patterns. There is a list of verb patterns on p143.

1 Verb + *to* + infinitive

They **want to buy** a new car.

I'd **like to go** abroad.

2 Verb + *-ing*

Everyone **loves going** to parties.

He **finished reading** his book.

3 Verb + *-ing* or + *to* + infinitive with no change in meaning

It **began to rain/raining**.

I **continued to work/working** in the library.

4 Verb + preposition + *-ing*

We're **thinking of moving** house.

I'm **looking forward to having** more free time.

Like doing and would like to do

- 1 *Like doing* and *love doing* express a general enjoyment.
I **like working** as a teacher. = I am a teacher and I enjoy it.
I **love dancing**. = This is one of my hobbies.
- 2 *Would like to do* and *would love to do* express a preference now or at a specific time.
I'd **like to be** a teacher. = When I grow up, I want to be a teacher.
Thank you. I'd **love to dance**. = We're at a disco. I'm pleased that you asked me.

Question

Short answer

Would you like to dance?

Yes, I would./Yes, I'd love to.

Would you like to come for a walk?

Yes, I would./No, thank you.

Note

No, I wouldn't is not common because it is impolite.

Will

Form

will + infinitive without *to*

Will is a modal auxiliary verb. There is an introduction to modal auxiliary verbs on p137 of the Grammar Reference. The forms of *will* are the same for all persons.

Positive and negative

I	'll (will)	come.
He/She/It	won't	help you.
We/You/They		invite Tom.

Question

When will	he you they	help me?
-----------	-------------------	----------

Short answer

Will you help me?	Yes, I will.
-------------------	--------------

Note

No, I won't is not common because it is impolite. It means 'I don't want to help you.'

A polite way of saying 'no' here is 'I'm afraid I can't.'



Use

Will is used:

- 1 to express a future decision or intention made *at the moment of speaking*.

'It's Jane's birthday.' 'Is it? **I'll buy** her some flowers.'

I'll give you my phone number.

'Which do you want? The blue or the red?'

I'll take the red, thank you.'

- 2 to express an offer.

I'll carry your suitcase.

We'll do the washing-up.

Going to

Form

am/is/are + going + to + infinitive

Positive and negative

I	'm (am) 'm not	going to work.
He She It	's (is) isn't	
We You They	're (are) aren't	

Question

When	am	I	going to arrive?
	is	he she it	
	are	we you they	

Short answer

Are they going to get married?

Yes, they are./No, they aren't.



Use

Going to is used:

- 1 to express a future decision, intention, or plan made *before* the moment of speaking.

How long **are they going to stay** in Rome?

She **isn't going to have** a birthday party.

Note

The Present Continuous can be used in a similar way for a plan or arrangement, particularly with the verbs *go* and *come*.

She's **coming** on Friday.

I'm **going** home early tonight.

- 2 when we can see or feel now that something is certain to happen in the future.

Look at these clouds! It's **going to rain**.

Watch out! That box **is going to fall**.

Will or going to

Look at the use of *will* and *going to* in these sentences.

I'm **going to make** a chicken casserole for dinner.

(I decided this morning and bought everything for it.)

What shall I cook for dinner? Er ... I know! I'll **make** chicken casserole! That's a good idea!

(I decided at the moment of speaking.)

What ... like?

Form

what + to be + subject + like?

What	's (is) your teacher are his parents was your holiday were the beaches	like?	She's very patient. They're very kind. Wonderful. We swam a lot. OK, but some were dirty.
------	---	-------	--

Note

We don't use *like* in the answer.

She's patient. NOT ~~She's like patient.~~



Use

What ... like? means 'Describe somebody or something. Tell me about them. I don't know anything about them.'

Like in this question is a preposition, not a verb:

'What's Jim **like**?' 'He's intelligent and kind, and he's got lovely blue eyes.'

In the following sentences *like* is a verb:

'What does Jim **like**?' 'He **likes** motorbikes and playing tennis.'

Note

How's your mother? asks about health. It doesn't ask for a description.

'How's your mother?' 'She's very well, thank you.'

Comparative and superlative adjectives

Form

1 Look at the chart.

		Comparative	Superlative
Short adjectives	cheap small *big	cheaper smaller bigger	cheapest smallest biggest
Adjectives that end in -y	funny early heavy	funnier earlier heavier	funniest earliest heaviest
Adjectives with two syllables or more	careful boring expensive interesting	more careful more boring more expensive more interesting	most careful most boring most expensive most interesting
Irregular adjectives	far good bad	further better worse	furthest best worst

* Short adjectives with one vowel + one consonant double the consonant:
hot/hotter/hottest, fat/fatter/fattest.



2 *Than* is often used after a comparative adjective.

I'm **younger than** Barbara.

Barbara's **more intelligent than** Sarah.

Much can come before the comparative to give emphasis.

She's **much nicer than** her sister.

Is Tokyo **much more modern than** London?

3 *The* is used before superlative adjectives.

He's **the funniest** boy in the class.

Which is **the tallest** building in the world?



Use

- 1 We use comparatives to compare one thing, person, or action with another.
She's **taller** than me.
London's **more expensive** than Rome.
- 2 We use superlatives to compare somebody or something with the whole group.
She's the **tallest** in the class.
It's the **most expensive** hotel in the world.
- 3 *As ... as* shows that something is the same or equal.
Jim's **as tall as** Peter.
I'm **as worried as** you are.
- 4 *Not as/so ... as* shows that something isn't the same or equal.
She **isn't as tall as** her mother.
My car **wasn't so expensive as** yours.