

Tikrit University

College of Nursing

Basic Nursing Sciences



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English

(Verb Patterns)

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Verb Patterns

English verbs can be followed by five main structures:

1. Verb + base form
 - Managers **must trust** their staff, or they **will fail** to get the best out of them.

2. Verb + to + base form
 - The band **intended to stay** as a four piece and were looking for a replacement bassist.
 - Much of the evidence tells people things they simply do not **want to hear**.

3. Verb + -ing form
 - The seminars, which **involve brainstorming** and **debating** exercises, will develop students oral and presentation skills.
 - Only exceptional circumstances **justify starting** a claim in the High Court.

4. Verb + that clause
 - Even the top medical scientists now **claim that** a good chortle has an enormous effect on the way we live our lives.
 - In this paper we **argue that** intercultural competence is one of the main skills that students need to operate effectively in the information society.

5. Verb + wh- clause (who, where, what, when, which, whether, why and how)
 - Partners will then need to **decide whether** they should adopt a local strategy or include a wider geographical area.

- We will also **discuss how** we intend to obtain some improvement over current anomaly detection systems.

Verb + base form (infinitive)

A verb can be followed by the **base form** (without to) or **to + base form** (also known as the **infinitive**). Consider:

- Researchers **should try not to intervene** in the processes they are observing. (*should + base form without to; try + base form with to*)

Common verbs which can be followed by an infinitive include:

Intend want

agree wish

appear manage

need promise

decide threaten

refuse prepare

Verb + -ing form

Common verbs which can be followed by an -ing form include:

Mention avoid

resist suggest

delay risk

propose deny

admit acknowledge

consider involve

In some cases, a verb may be followed by an infinitive or an -ing form. In some cases, there is no change in meaning:

- The financial deficit **started to fall** at the end of the financial period.
- The financial deficit **started falling** at the end of the financial period.

... in others, replacing the infinitive with the -ing form changes the meaning completely:

- The workers **stopped to smoke** in the car park. (paused work in order to smoke)
- The workers **stopped smoking** in the car park. (smoking was banned)

Verb + *that/wh-* clauses

A number of verbs can be followed by a subordinate clause (and a subordinating conjunction, such as *that* or a *wh-* word). These verbs are often used to report what others have said, and are extremely common in academic writing.

Common verbs that can be followed by a *that* or *wh-* clause include:

Consider assert

argue confirm

claim decide

note imply

notice threaten

observe conclude

estimate warn