

Verb Patterns: Adjectives and Prepositions

INTERMEDIATE

Focus: Intentional actions vs. accidental results, Fear of consequences, Intention vs. Reaction, Apologizing for past actions vs. Regretting bad news

Some adjectives in English can be followed by either a **To-Infinitive** (*to do*) or a **Preposition + -ing** (*of/in/for doing*). However, the meaning often changes depending on which form you use.

1. Afraid

Structure	Meaning	Example
Afraid to + verb	Intention/Choice. You are scared to do something dangerous or difficult, so you might choose not to do it.	<i>I am afraid to touch that spider. (I don't want to do it).</i>
Afraid of + -ing	Accident/Result. You are worried about something happening to you that is out of your control (a consequence).	<i>I walked slowly because I was afraid of falling. (I didn't want to fall, but it could happen).</i>

2. Interested

Structure	Meaning	Example
Interested to + verb	Reaction. You want to find out information (hear, see, know, read, learn). It refers to the moment you receive news.	<i>I was interested to read your email. (I wanted to see what it said).</i>
Interested in + -ing	Desire/Ambition. You are thinking about doing something in the future, or you enjoy a hobby.	<i>I am interested in learning Spanish. (I want to do it).</i>

3. Sorry

Structure	Meaning	Example
Sorry to + verb	Regret (Present). Used when giving bad news or when you regret something at the moment of speaking.	<i>I am sorry to tell you that we are closed. I was sorry to hear about his illness.</i>
Sorry for + -ing	Apology (Past). Used to apologize for something you did in the past.	<i>I am sorry for losing your pen. I am sorry for being late.</i>

Practice: Fill in the Blanks

Instruction: Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- Use **to + infinitive** (e.g., *to go*) or **verb + -ing** (e.g., *going*).
- Pay attention to the specific meaning (intention vs. accident, reaction vs. desire, apology vs. regret).
- For negatives, use the cue (**not/verb**).

1. I didn't want to pet the dog because I was afraid _____ (touch) it.
2. She studied very hard because she was afraid of _____ (not/pass) her final exams.
3. _____ you interested in _____ (join) our football team next season?
4. I was very interested _____ (hear) that they are moving to Canada. It was surprising news!
5. He is sorry for _____ (not/call) you yesterday; his battery died.
6. Why are you afraid _____ (jump) into the water? It isn't cold!
7. We are very sorry _____ (inform) you that the concert has been cancelled.
8. I am interested in _____ (not/work) overtime this weekend, so I will finish my tasks today.
9. _____ she sorry for _____ (break) your favorite vase?
10. The sidewalk is very icy. Are you afraid of _____ (fall)?
11. He drove very slowly because he was afraid of _____ (not/see) the signs in the fog.
12. I was interested _____ (see) the reaction on his face when he opened the gift.
13. Please forgive me. I am sorry for _____ (lose) the keys.
14. The teacher was angry. She was sorry for _____ (not/check) the homework earlier.
15. Are you afraid of _____ (get) lost in the city?

Answer Key

1. **to touch** (Intention: unwilling to do it)
2. **not passing** (Fear of consequence/result)
3. **Are / joining** (Desire/Ambition)
4. **to hear** (Reaction to news)
5. **not calling** (Apology for past action)
6. **to jump** (Intention: scared to perform the action)
7. **to inform** (Regret about bad news in the present)
8. **not working** (Desire/Preference)
9. **Was / breaking** (Apology for past action)
10. **falling** (Fear of accidental result)
11. **not seeing** (Fear of consequence)
12. **to see** (Reaction/Information)
13. **losing** (Apology for past action)
14. **not checking** (Apology for past action)
15. **getting** (Fear of accidental result)