

American English File

1.7 Combining Verbs

Part 1 Grammar Explanation

IDEA 1 | Modal verbs (can, might, should) are followed by base form verbs (go, be, make, have).

We can rent bicycles. ✓

~~We can to rent bicycles.~~ ✗

I will meet you at 12 o'clock. ✓

~~I will meeting you at 12 o'clock.~~ ✗

You should wear a helmet. ✓

~~You should a helmet.~~ ✗

[can, could, may, might, must, should, will, would, etc.]

IDEA 2 | Some regular verbs can be followed by an infinitive (to + verb).

Rob needs to do an interview. ✓

~~Rob needs do an interview.~~ ✗

What do you want to do? ✓

~~What do you want doing?~~ ✗

They plan to meet at 12 o'clock. ✓

~~They plan meet at 12 o'clock.~~ ✗

[decide, expect, hope, need, offer, plan, pretend, promise, want, *would like, etc.]

IDEA 3 | Some regular verbs can be followed by a gerund (verb+ing).

They often go cycling. ✓

~~They often go to cycle.~~ ✗

He suggests renting bikes. ✓

~~He suggests rent bikes.~~ ✗

She doesn't enjoy going to museums. ✓

~~She doesn't enjoy to go to museums.~~ ✗

[advise, avoid, consider, finish, go, keep, quit, recommend, regret, suggest, etc.]

IDEA 4 | Some regular verbs can be followed by an infinitive or a gerund. The meaning is essentially the same.

Daniel starts talking to Rob. ✓

Daniel starts to talk to Rob. ✓

They like going to cafes. ✓

They like to go to cafes. ✓

[begin, continue, hate, *like, love, prefer, start]

IDEA 5 | Most regular (*transitive*) verbs can be followed by a noun (*i.e. a direct object*). Don't use "to" or "-ing".

She wants an espresso. ✓

~~She wants to espresso.~~ ✗

She wants to have an espresso. ✓

Have you finished your coffee? ✓

~~Have you finished to coffee?~~ ✗

Have you finished drinking your coffee? ✓

Part 2 Grammar Check Choose all of the correct answers.

1. Daniel keeps ____ Jenny.
a) call
b) to call
c) calling
2. Rob says that they can easily _____.
a) rent bikes
b) to rent bikes
c) renting bikes
d) bikes
3. Rob wants ____ his interview.
a) postpone
b) to postpone
c) postponing
4. Jenny wants _____.
a) another coffee.
b) get another coffee.
c) to get another coffee.
d) getting another coffee.
5. Rob suggests ____ at the Tate Museum.
a) meet
b) to meet
c) meeting
6. They will start ____ after Rob's interview.
a) bike
b) to bike
c) biking
7. They will go ____ after Rob's interview.
a) bike
b) to bike
c) biking
8. Rob hopes ____ the interview quickly.
a) finish
b) to finish
c) finishing
9. They decide _____.
a) to go to bike
b) going to bike
c) to go biking
d) going biking
10. Rob expects ____ 15 minutes early.
a) arrive
b) to arrive
c) arriving
11. Would you like ____?
a) tea
b) to tea
c) to have tea
d) having tea
12. She recommended this _____.
a) wine
b) to wine
c) wining
13. Could you please ____?
a) pass the milk
b) to pass the milk
c) passing the milk
d) the milk
14. You should ____ later.
a) do it
b) to do it
c) doing it
d) it
15. I usually avoid _____.
a) go to crowded bars
b) to go to crowded bars
c) going to crowded bars
d) crowded bars
e) to crowded bars
16. Rob needs ____ the artist today.
a) meet
b) to meet
c) meeting
17. We need _____.
a) earn more money
b) to earn more money
c) earning more money
d) more money

Part 3 Grammar Discussion *Cover the right side (answers) and try to ask and answer these questions.
Uncover the right side to check your language.*

Q1 | what / you / plan / do / this / weekend / ?

What do you plan to do this weekend?
I plan to ...

Q2 | what / foods / you / avoid / eat / when / you / sick / ?

What foods do you avoid eating when you are sick?
I usually avoid (eating) ... when I am sick.

Q3 | what / famous / person / would / you / like / meet / ?

What famous person would you like to meet?
I would like to meet ...

Q4 | in / how / many / language / can / you / say /
goodbye / ?

In how many languages can you say hello and hello and
goodbye ?
I can say "hello" and "goodbye" in ... languages.

Q5 | what / bad / habit / you / want / quit / ?

What bad habit do you want to quit?
I want to quit ...

Q6 | which / country / you / expect / win / next /
World Cup / ?

Which country do you expect to win the next World Cup?
I expect ... to win the next World Cup.

Answers

1. Daniel keeps _____. Jenny.
c) calling
2. Rob says that they can easily _____.
a) rent bikes
3. Rob wants _____ his interview.
b) to postpone
4. Jenny wants _____.
a) another coffee.
c) to get another coffee.
5. Rob suggests _____ at the Tate Museum.
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6. They will start _____ after Rob's interview.
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17. We need _____.
b) to earn more money
d) more money