

THE ARTS

PEOPLE



## A profile of **Andrea Bocelli**

World-famous singer Andrea Bocelli lost his sight at the age of 12. He remembers taking huge comfort from his music during this difficult period of his life. He started to play the piano at the age of six and he went on to learn the flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, harp, guitar and drums.

When he left home, Bocelli studied law at university. He never meant to become a professional singer but, as a student,

he tried to earn extra money by singing in bars at night.

In 1992, he won a singing competition and, since then, he hasn't stopped performing to huge audiences around the world and recording number-one albums. Looking back on his career, Bocelli sometimes regrets doing 'things that were profitable' instead of 'more artistically satisfying work', but it's a regret most of us can only dream of.

### Presentation

Some verbs can be followed by either *to + infinitive* or the *-ing* form but the meaning changes. These verbs include: *remember, forget, go on, mean, regret, stop* and *try*.

	+ <i>-ing</i>	+ <i>to + infinitive</i>
<b>remember / forget</b>	To talk about your memories: <i>He remembers taking comfort from his music during this difficult period of his life.</i> <i>He'll never forget hearing music for the first time.</i>	To talk about actions which are necessary: <i>I must remember to send that letter.</i> <i>Don't forget to practise the piano.</i> To say whether or not the action took place: <i>Did you remember to post the letter?</i> <i>Sorry, I forgot to send it.</i>
<b>go on</b>	To talk about a continuing action already in progress: <i>He went on performing for the rest of his life.</i>	To talk about a change of situation or sequence of events: <i>He learnt to play the piano and went on to learn other musical instruments.</i>
<b>mean</b>	To talk about the result of an action: <i>Success as a singer meant changing his career plans.</i>	To talk about something you intend to do: <i>He always meant to become a lawyer.</i>
<b>regret</b>	To say you are sorry for something that you did: <i>I regret doing things for money.</i>	To say you are sorry for something that you are about to say. This is a polite way to introduce bad news: <i>I regret to tell you that you have not won.</i>
<b>stop</b>	To talk about an action which has ended: <i>He stopped performing to audiences in 2001.</i>	To talk about the reason for stopping: <i>He stopped to talk to his fans.</i>
<b>try</b>	To talk about an experiment to see if something is successful: <i>He tried working as a lawyer but he didn't like it.</i>	To talk about an attempt to do something: <i>He tried to earn extra money.</i>

## Exercises

1 Complete the pairs of sentences with the infinitive or *-ing* form of the verb.

- 1 A I remember ..... (leave) my wallet on the table, but now it isn't there.  
B Did you remember ..... (do) your homework?
- 2 A Don't forget ..... (take) the books with you when you leave.  
B I'll never forget ..... (fall) off my bicycle for the first time.
- 3 A After a bad start, the team went on ..... (win) the tournament.  
B We went on ..... (tell) each other scary stories until the early hours of the morning.
- 4 A Leaving university meant ..... (give up) his dreams of becoming a doctor.  
B I'm sorry. I didn't mean ..... (be) rude.
- 5 A I don't regret ..... (hit) him at all! He deserved it.  
B We regret ..... (inform) you that we are unable to reimburse the full amount.
- 6 A You're so selfish. Do you ever stop ..... (think) how other people might feel?  
B Stop ..... (bother) your brother. He needs to finish his homework.
- 7 A Try ..... (press) that key again and see if the program stops this time.  
B I'm trying ..... (learn) Arabic at the moment, but it isn't easy!

2  Correct six more mistakes in these conversations. Then listen and check.

## Conversation 1

Shelley: Did you remember <sup>to</sup> buy more paint, Diego?

Diego: Yes, I did. But I forgot bringing it with me. I can go back and get it now.

Shelley: It's OK. I think Marie is on her way here, so she can stop getting some.

## Conversation 2

Shelley: Hi Marie. It's Shelley. Are you on your way?

Marie: No, not yet. I meant leaving ages ago, but my ex-boyfriend called round.

Shelley: Really? What did he want?

Marie: To say how much he regretted to leave me. He went on say how sorry he was for over an hour!

Shelley: What happened?

Marie: Well, I tried be nice at first but it didn't help, so in the end I told him to go.

3 Rewrite the first sentence using the word in bold followed by a verb as an infinitive or in the *-ing* form.

- 1 After he joined the army, he became a general.  
**went on** After he joined the army, he ..... *went on to become* ..... a general.
- 2 Don't worry so much!  
**stop** ..... it so much!
- 3 As the window is stuck from the inside, see if you can open it from the outside.  
**try** As the window is stuck from the inside, ..... it from the outside.
- 4 I'm sorry that I lied to you.  
**regret** I ..... to you.
- 5 The security guard was sure he had checked the lock before he went home.  
**remembered** The security guard ..... the lock before he went home.
- 6 I had less money to spend because I lost my job.  
**meant** Losing my job ..... less money to spend.