

I like eating and I like to eat

Often confusing for a beginner and sometimes interesting for higher levels. Both structures can be used. The initial difficulty for a beginner is that he or she tends to concentrate on the French structure verb + infinitive (*j'aime manger*). This gives:

- I like to eat

Solution:

The question is WHEN and WHY? Look at the explanations below.

→ I LIKE EATING

- "I like eating" = *j'aime manger*. This expresses a **general sentiment / habit**

→ I LIKE TO EAT

- "I like to eat" = *J'aime manger*. This expresses a **personal opinion** (sense of "*Moi, j'aime...*" or an idea of "*je pense que c'est la meilleure façon...*")

Examples:

1) *J'aime manger de la viande* = **I like eating meat** (idea of generality / habit)

2) *J'aime manger bio* = **I like to eat organic food** (idea of personal opinion).

* You may also use various other verbs of sentiment in the same way - to love, to hate, to prefer. However, to *adore*, to *dislike*, to *loathe* automatically use the "ing" structure.



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