



prevent

stop

to stop something from happening or someone from doing something.

[+ noun/pronoun]

- Label your suitcases to prevent confusion.
- The police seem to be powerless to prevent these attacks.

prevent somebody/something (from) doing something

[(from) + -ing verb]

- His disability prevents him (from) driving.
- We were prevented from entering the site.

to prevent someone from doing something:

[+ noun/pronoun]

- If she really wants to leave, I don't understand what's stopping her.
- Great efforts are being made to stop the spread of coronavirus.

stop somebody/ something (from) doing something

[(from) + -ing verb]

- This barrier is to stop people from coming in without a ticket.
- The rain didn't stop us from enjoying the trip.
- "I won't stop you from leaving, if that's what you want to do."

Important : In everyday English, people usually say **stop somebody/something (from) doing something** rather than **prevent somebody/something (from) doing sth**

avoid

to prevent something from happening or to not allow yourself to do something to stay away from someone or something.

avoid someone /something

- He's been avoiding me all week. / I left early to avoid the rush hour.
- I try to avoid supermarkets on Saturdays - they're always so busy.
- We must find a way to avoid similar problems in future.

avoid doing something / avoid something happening

- You should avoid mentioning his divorce.
- I avoided being discovered by hiding.

meaning to find a way not to do something

get out of doing sth is more common than **avoid** in everyday spoken English.

- He tried to avoid paying his taxes and was taken to court.
- He tried to get out of paying his taxes and was taken to court.

IDIOM : avoid sth/sb like the plague : to be determined to avoid sb/sth completely

- I'm not a fan of parties - in fact I avoid them like the plague.

COMMON MISTAKES

- X AVOID FROM
- X AVOID TO DO