

13 The infinitive

The to infinitive

1 Some examples of the **to infinitive**:

*I want **to go** home now.
He promised **not to do** it again.*

2 We use the pattern **verb + to infinitive** with various common verbs:

*I've **arranged to meet** some friends tonight.
She's **hoping to get** a better job.*

3 The negative form is **not + to infinitive**:

*We **decided not to buy** the cheapest one.*

4 We use the pattern **verb + object + to infinitive** with some common verbs:

*I **don't want her to come** with me.*

See also *tell* and *ask* on p. 108.

2 We use the **to infinitive** after various verbs connected with wanting or planning to do something: **hope, intend, plan, want**.

Here, someone is talking to a waiter:
*I want **to order my meal** now.*

3 We use the **to infinitive** after various verbs connected with thinking: **decide, forget, remember**

*I've **forgotten to bring my money**.*

4 We use the **to infinitive** after various verbs connected with doing something in order to produce a certain result: **try, manage, arrange, fail**

*He **tried not to drop** the plates.*



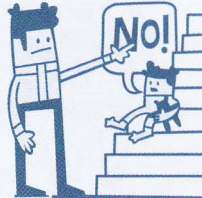
5 We use **want + object + to infinitive** to give an order or request. Here, a teacher is giving instructions to a class:

*I want you **to write a story** called 'The Long Journey'.*

Grammar in action

1 We use the **to infinitive** after various verbs connected with saying that we will or will not do something: **agree, refuse, offer, promise**

*She **refused to go to bed**.*



A Postcard from Paris



Complete this postcard from one friend to another, using the **to infinitive** form of the correct verbs in the box.

see understand pay take go arrive bring spend get in improve

Hi Nick,

I'm having a good time in Paris. My French isn't very good but I'm managing **to understand**⁰ what people say to me, and fortunately I remembered ¹ my phrase book. I'm hoping ² my French while I'm here. And I'm planning ³ a lot of my time sightseeing. I want ⁴ a riverboat trip on the Seine, I intend ⁵ to the top of the Eiffel Tower and I've also decided ⁶ for a guided tour of the Louvre. Yesterday, I tried ⁷ some of the famous paintings at another museum but I failed ⁸ at the place early enough. There were long queues but I managed ⁹ after about an hour and the paintings were great. I'll write to you again in a few days.

William



Nick Smith

9 Park Street

Oxford

ENGLAND

B The school team's next match

Some people had a meeting to discuss the school team's next match at another school. Complete what some of the boys and their parents said, using *agreed*, *offered*, *promised* or *refused* and the *to* infinitive.

'Will you wear the number 4 shirt, Andy,' said the coach. 'No,' said Andy.

'I'm not going to play in the match. I don't want to,' said Eric.

'I'll take Eric's place,' said Simon.

'Will you bring some snacks and drinks, Mrs Davies?' 'OK,' said Mrs Davies.

'Don't be late, Don,' said the coach. 'No, I'll be there on time.'

- 0 Andy refused to wear the number 4 shirt.
- 1 Eric in the match.
- 2 Simon Eric's place.
- 3 Mrs Davies some snacks and drinks.
- 4 Don there on time.

C The new motorbike

Complete this conversation between Joe and Neil about Joe's new motorbike. Use the verbs in brackets in the same verb tenses as the questions before them, and use the negative *to* infinitive form of the correct verbs in the box.

do get scare spend discuss go

NEIL Did you buy a motorbike last week?

JOE Yes, and I managed not to spend⁰ (manage) too much. I found a cheap one.

NEIL What have your parents said about it?

JOE We¹ (agree) the subject any more. They're not pleased.

NEIL Did you get the one you told me about?

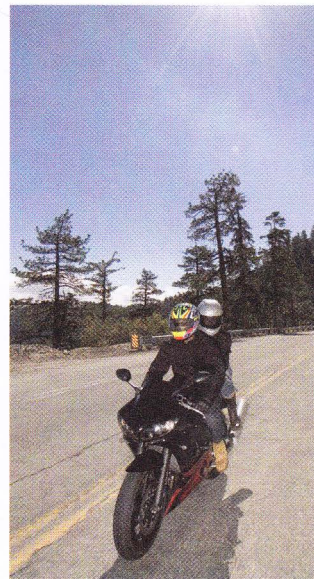
JOE No, I² (decide) that one. I got a different one.

NEIL Can I come for a ride on it with you? Will I be safe?

JOE Yes, I³ (try) anything risky if you're with me. And I⁴ (remember) too fast.

NEIL Do you promise? I don't want to get frightened.

JOE Yes, I⁵ (promise) you. You'll love it.



D Janet's party

Complete each pair of sentences about Janet's birthday party, using the phrases in the box. Use the past simple form of *want* in each first sentence and the present simple form of *want* in each second sentence.

not want/her old boyfriend/go want/people/have want/people/remember
want/everyone/enjoy want/everyone dance not want/people/sit
not want/him/be not want/food/run out

- 0 She wanted everyone to enjoy⁰ the party.
She said 'I want people to remember⁰ it for a long time.'
- 1 She to the party.
She said 'I there. I hate him!'
- 2 She plenty to eat.
She said 'I quickly.'
- 3 She down all evening.
She said 'I to the music.'

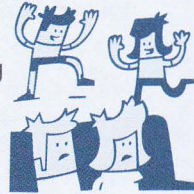
Which of these sentences means the same as 'The food ran out'?

- A There was no more food.
- B The food was excellent.
- C There was a lot of food.
- D The food was poor.

WORD FOCUS

The infinitive The infinitive without to

- 5** Some examples of the use of the **infinitive without to**:
I'll see you tomorrow.
*The teacher **made** him **do** the work again.*
- 6** We use the **infinitive without to** after modal verbs (*will, can, may, might, should, could, would, must*):
*Can you **hear** me?*
*You **might not like** this.*
- 7** We use the **infinitive without to** after **make** and **let** in this pattern:
- make/let + object + infinitive without to**
- His story **made us laugh**.*
*The boss **let them go** home early.*
- 8** We use **make** with an object and the infinitive without to to talk about the cause of an action or feeling:
*It was a sad film and it **made me cry**.*
- 9** We use **make** with an object and the infinitive without to to say that someone forces another person to do something that the person does not want to do:
*His mother **made him tidy** his room.*
- 10** We use **let** with an object and the infinitive without to with the meaning 'allow' or 'give permission':
*They **let their children do anything they want**.*



We usually use the patterns in 9 and 10 to talk about the actions of people in authority, e.g. parents, teachers, bosses at work.

Grammar in action

- 7** We use the **infinitive without to** to make statements and ask questions using modal verbs:
*I **can't see** anything.*



To form negatives with **let**, we often use **won't** for the present and **wouldn't** for the past:
*His parents **won't let him stay up late at night**.*
(in the present and in general)
*He **wanted to watch the programme** but his parents **wouldn't let him watch it**.*

E Travel card information

Complete this conversation in a tourist information office using the phrases in the box and the appropriate modals. More than one modal may be correct in some gaps.

I/get you/find they/be I/use you/give it/be

- TOURIST ...*Could/Would you give*...⁰ me some information on travel cards?
ASSISTANT Yes, of course. What do you want to know?
TOURIST¹ the card on trains and buses?
ASSISTANT Yes, it's for trains and buses.
TOURIST I'm staying here for three weeks.² weekly cards or a monthly card?
ASSISTANT Well, that's up to you. If you travel a lot,³ a good idea to get a monthly card, but I'm not sure.
TOURIST Are children free?
ASSISTANT⁴ under the age of 12 for free travel.
TOURIST How much are the cards?
ASSISTANT Here's a leaflet with all the details.⁵ everything you need to know there.
TOURIST Oh, OK thanks.



F My teacher

Complete this description of a teacher using the correct forms of *make* or *let*, the words in brackets and the correct verbs in the box.

go bring concentrate enjoy behave read do stay give

Mr Gregory is a good teacher and I like him but he's very strict. Sometimes he makes all of us stay⁰ (all of us) at school after lessons if only one person has done something wrong. Last week, he¹ (us) home because he was angry with us, and he² (us) a lot of extra work. He certainly never³ (people) badly.

He⁴ (everyone) on their work, but he sometimes⁵ (us) ourselves when we've finished a particular piece of work. One thing he's very strict about is doing our homework on time – he⁶ (students) it to him late. Last Thursday was an unusual day in our class, because he⁷ (us) books to school that we wanted to read. That was great, but he also⁸ (me) from my book to the rest of the class.

G Email from California

Bill is visiting the US. Complete his email to his friend Ellie, using the *to* infinitive or the infinitive without *to* and the correct verbs or phrases in the box.

visit bring stay pay not laugh me/miss describe go everyone/sing
not look be take me/meet do tell rent say have not get

Hi Ellie,

I'm staying with some friends of my parents here in California and I'm having a good time. I've done lots of things and I won't⁰ tell you about all of them now but I can¹ one or two of my experiences. Last week, the family offered² me to Hollywood because I wanted³ on a tour of a film studio. It was great – you must⁴ the place one day. And yesterday they wanted⁵ some of their friends and so they arranged⁶ a picnic in some beautiful woods. At the end, they made⁷ a song. At first I refused⁸ it, but they wouldn't let⁹ my turn, so I had to sing. I tried¹⁰ embarrassed and they promised¹¹ if I sang badly. I did OK, I think, and I managed¹² too stupid.

Next week, I'm planning¹³ a visit to San Francisco on my own. The family I'm staying with are really good to me, and perhaps I shouldn't¹⁴ this, but it'll¹⁵ good to spend some time exploring on my own. I might¹⁶ in a hotel there for a couple of days, I'm not sure. And I've also decided¹⁷ a car and drive to some other places before I come home – I remembered¹⁸ my international licence with me. That's all for now,

Bill

OVER TO YOU Now go to page 124.