


THE TO-INFINITIVE OR -ING FORM

GRAMMAR REFERENCES


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The to-infinitive is used

- 1.To express **purpose**.
 - He went to university **to become** a lawyer. (in order to become)
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to - infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- 2. after certain verbs (**agree, appear, decide, expect, hope, plan, promise, refuse etc**).
 - He ***refused to pay*** the bill.
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to – infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- 3. after certain adjectives (**happy, glad, sorry etc**).
 - She was **happy to win** the prize.
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to- infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- 4. After I **would like/would love/would prefer** to express specific preference.

- *I'd like to see* the manager.

to – infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- 5. After **certain nouns**.
- What **a surprise to see** him there!

to – infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- 6. After **too/enough** constructions
- He's *too young to have* his own car.
- He's *clever enough to do* the crossword.
- He's *got enough money to live* on.

to - infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- 7. With: **it + be + adjective (+ of + noun/pronoun).**

- *It was generous of him to offer*
1000\$.

to – infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- 8. With **so+adjective+as**.



- Would you be ***so kind as to help*** me move the sofa?

to – infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- 9. With “**only**” to express an unsatisfactory result.
- She came in **only to find** Bob had left.

to - infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- 10. After: **be + the first/second etc/next/last/best etc.**
- He ***was the last to come*** to work.

to – infinitive


The to-infinitive is used

- 11. In the expression: **for + noun/pronoun + to -inf.**

- *For him to be* so rude was unforgivable.

to – infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- 12. In expressions such as: **to tell you the truth, to begin with, to be honest** etc.
 - ***To be honest***, I don't like him.
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to – infinitive

The to-infinitive is used

- Note: If two infinitives are joined by “**and**” or “**or**”, the “to” of the second infinitive can be omitted.
- I want *to call Mr Jones and fax or post* him a letter.

to – infinitive

The -ing form is used

- 1. After certain verbs (**admit, anticipate, appreciate, avoid, consider, continue, delay, deny, discuss, enjoy, escape, excuse, fancy, finish, forgive, go(physical activities), imagine, involve, keep,(=continue), mention, mind, miss, object to, postpone, practice, prevent, quit, recall recollect, report, resent, resist, risk, save, stand suggest, tolerate, understand etc**).
- They *discussed selling* the company.
- Let's *go jogging!*
- I'd rather *go sailing.*

The -ing form is used

- 2. After: **dislike, enjoy, hate, like, love, prefer** to express general preference.

- She **dislikes painting**. (In general)
- Note: Like + to-inf = it's good idea
- I **like to wash** my hair every day

- Ing - ing - ing - ing - ing

The -ing form is used

- 3. After: **I'm busy, It's no use, It's (no) good, It's (not) worth, what's the use of, can't help, there is no point (in), can't stand, have difficulty (in), in addition to, as well as, have trouble, have a hard/difficult time.**
 - He can't stand being treated like a slave.
 - He had difficulty finding his way back.

- Ing - ing - ing -ing - ing

The -ing form is used

- 4. After: **spend/waste (time, money etc).**

- He *spends his free time (in) digging* the garden.

- Ing - ing - ing - ing - ing

The -ing form is used

- 5. After **prepositions**.

- He left the shop *without paying* so he was accused of stealing.

- Ing - ing - ing - ing - ing

The -ing form is used

- 6. As a **noun**.

- **Walking** is good exercise.

- Ing - ing - ing - ing - ing

The -ing form is used

- 7. After: **look forward to, be/get used to, be/get accustomed to, object to, admit (to) etc.**



- I *am looking forward to hearing* from you soon.

Ing - ing - ing - - ing - ing

The -ing form is used

- 8. After: **hear, listen, notice, see, watch** to express an incomplete action, an action in progress or a long action.
- I **saw Tim doing** his homework. (I saw part of the action in progress. I did not wait until he had finished.)

- Ing - ing - ing - ing - ing

- **But**: **hear, listen, see, watch** + infinitive without "to" express a complete action, something that one saw or heard from beginning to end.



- I **saw Tim do** his homework. It took him an hour. (I saw the whole action from beginning to end.)

hear, listen , see, watch

THE INFINITIVE WITHOUT TO IS USED

- 1. After: most **modal verbs**(**can, must, will etc**).
- You **can leave** now if you want.
- 2. After: **had better/would rather**.
- **I'd rather not go** out tonight.
- 3. After: **make/let/see/hear/feel + object**. They **made** him pay for the damage.
- 4. "**know**" and "**help**" are allowed by to-infinitive or an infinitive without to.
- **I've never know him (to) be** so mean.
- 5. But: in the passive: **be known, be helped + to-infinitive**. She **was known to have worked** as a teacher.

infinitive without to