

# The Infinitive



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Thinking  
of Verbs:  
(Click on word to  
see description.)

# The Infinitive

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# Forms of the Infinitive

	Active	Passive
Simple	to drive	to be driven
Continuous	to be driving	-
Perfect	to have driven	to have been driven
Perfect Cont.	to have been driving	-

to be driven

-

to have been driven

-

# The functions of the Infinitive

**Next**

Functions		Indicators	Patterns
Subject			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>To love is</u> happiness</li> <li>• <u>It is easy</u> to live</li> </ul>
Part of a compound <i>nominal</i> predicate		<p><b>NO passive</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>To be</b> + inf.</li> <li>2. Adj + <b>Inf</b> <u>with preposition</u></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His dream <u>was to do it</u></li> <li>• He's very <u>easy to look after</u></li> </ul>
Part of compound <i>verbal</i> predicate	Modal	Modal, v. expressing modality	• I <u>can (want)</u> to tell it
	Aspect	The beginning, duration, end of the action	• I <u>began</u> to read the book
	Object		• I try to think of a story
Attribute		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Noun</b></li> <li>2. <b>indefinite pronoun</b></li> <li>3. <b>ordinal numerals</b></li> <li>4. <b>"the last"</b></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tea to drink</li> <li>• something to expect</li> <li>• the first to speak</li> <li>• the last to come</li> </ul>
Adverbial modifier of	purpose	In order to do	• I leave to come back
	result	<b>Enough/too</b>	• He's clever <u>enough</u> to get it
Complex object			• I need <u>him to help me</u>
Complex subject			• I <u>was seen to cross the street</u>

# Complex object:

Subject + Pred + Object + Inf

Next

We usually use Complex object after:

<p><b><u>Sense perception</u></b> VN! See («понимать»), hear («узнавать»)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I <u>hear</u> him laugh</li><li>• <b>But!</b> I heard that he is going to arrive</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Mental activity:</u></b> To know, to consider (<i>можно опустить to be</i>) to think, to believe, to suppose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I <u>know</u> you the most interesting man</li><li>• I <u>suppose</u> that girl to be an actress</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Verbs of declaring</u></b> To pronounce, to declare, to report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He <u>reported</u> to come tomorrow</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Wish and intention</u></b> To want, to wish, to desire, to mean, to intend, to choose («хотеть»)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He <u>choose</u> her to became his wife</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Feeling and emotion</u></b> To like, to love, to hate, cannot bear</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I <u>hate</u> you to pretend</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Order and permission</u></b> To order, to allow, to suffer, to have</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I have never <u>allowed</u> her to be alone</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Verbs of compulsion</u></b> To make, to have, to cause, to force, to get</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Take</u> him do it</li><li>• I <u>forced</u> you to became a singer</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Verbs requiring prepositions</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I <u>rely on</u> you to make her come</li></ul>

# Complex subject:

Next

## Subject + Pred + Inf

<p>1. <u>Sense perception</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She was heard to sing loud</li><li>• He was noticed to have stolen the key</li></ul>
<p>2. <b>to seem = to appear</b> <b>to happen = to chance</b> <b>to prove = to turn out</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They <u>seem</u> to be in love</li><li>• He <u>happened</u> to meet them.</li></ul> <p><b>NB!</b> They <u>don't seem</u> to trust each other</p>
<p>3. <b>to be likely / unlikely</b> <b>to be certain / uncertain</b> <b>to be sure / insure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He is sure to be there</li><li>• It is unlikely to happen today</li></ul>

# Bare Infinitive

Next

The infinitive without “to”. We use it:

<p><u>1. After auxiliary and modal verbs</u> (except ought to, have to)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I <u>don't understand</u> the reason you <b>run away</b></li><li>• I had to go</li></ul>
<p><u>2. Sense perception</u>: to notice, to hear, to feel, to observe, to see, to watch <b>to make</b> <b>NB:</b> in Passive <u>with TO</u> <b>to let</b> <b>NB:</b> is never used in Passive (to allow) in Passive with TO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He <u>observed</u> them <b>dance</b></li><li>• I made her sing <b>But!</b> I <u>was made</u> <b>to do</b> it</li><li>• Parents <u>let</u> her <b>go</b> out <b>But!</b> She <u>was allowed</u> <b>to go</b> out</li></ul>
<p><u>3. Constructions</u>: Had better, cannot but, would rather, would sooner, why not</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She <u>had better</u> <b>stay</b> at home</li><li>• <u>Why not</u> <b>take</b> him in the trip</li></ul>

# The-for-to-infinitive-construction

Subject	<u>to be</u> easy <u>for smb to do smth</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>It is difficult</u> for me <b>to understand</b> her reasons.</li> </ul>
Object	<p>1) <b>to wait, to arrange, to be anxious + <u>for smb to do smth</u></b></p> <p>2) <b>To make, to think + <u>it is easy/difficult for smb to do smth</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>I'm not waiting</u> for you <b>to come</b></li> <li>• His words <u>make</u> it difficult for me to <b>forgive</b> you</li> </ul>
Attribute	<p>1) <b>there is somebody, there is nothing + <u>for smb to do</u></b></p> <p>b) <b>It's not the right thing/the only thing + <u>for smb to do</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Is there anyone</u> for her <b>to take care of</b></li> <li>• <u>It's the only thing</u> for me <b>to eat</b></li> </ul>
The Adverbial Modifier of	<u>Purpose</u> to do smth for smb to do smth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>I bought</u> a toy for him <b>to play</b>.</li> </ul>
	<u>Result</u> (too) clever(enough), young for smb to do smth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>The water was</u> cold for child <b>to swim</b></li> </ul>