

Complex Infinitives

- to wash:
(simple) infinitive

- to be washing:
continuous infinitive

- to have washed:
perfect infinitive

- to have been washing:
perfect continuous infinitive

- to be washed:
passive infinitive

- to have been washed:
perfect passive infinitive

Complex Gerunds

- washing:
(simple) gerund

- being washed:
passive gerund

- having washed:
perfect gerund

- having been washed:
perfect passive gerund

- having been washing:
perfect continuous
gerund

Passive Gerund

We use a passive gerund to talk about actions which are done to the subject:

- She loves **being told** how pretty she is.
- I'm tired of **being lied** to. I want the truth.

Passive Infinitive

We use a passive infinitive to talk about actions which are done to the subject:

- It's very difficult **to get promoted** in this company.
- My car needs **to be serviced**.

Perfect Gerund

We use a perfect gerund when we want to *emphasize*¹ that an action was completed in the past:

- The thanked them for **having helped** him.
- **Having studied** one language before makes it easier to learn another.

¹ Often there is no difference between using the perfect gerund and the simple gerund.

Perfect Infinitive

We use a perfect infinitive when we want to *emphasize*¹ that an action was completed in the past:

- How wonderful **to have finished** all our exams!
- By the time I'm 30, I hope **to have started** a family.

¹ Often there is no difference between using the perfect infinitive and the simple infinitive.

Perfect Infinitive

We use a perfect infinitive after would like, would love, would hate, would prefer, would rather to talk about an earlier action:

- We would rather **have stayed** in a more central hotel, but they were all full.
- I would like **to see** the Eiffel Tower.
- I would like **to have seen** the Eiffel Tower.

Continuous Infinitive

We use a continuous infinitive to say that an action/event is in progress around the time we are talking about:

- I'd like **to be lying** on the beach right now.
- She seems **to be coughing** a lot – do you think she's OK?

Gerunds

We use the gerund after **certain expressions** with *it* or *there*:

- **It's no use worrying.** There's nothing you can do.
- **It's no good talking** to my dad because he doesn't listen to me.
- **Is there any point** in **asking** him? He never has anything useful to say

Infinitives

We use the infinitive:

- After **nouns** formed from **verbs** which take the **infinitive**:

We had an **agreement** **to share** the costs.

Our **plan** is **to leave** on Saturday.

Infinitives

We use the infinitive:

- After **expressions with quantifiers**, e.g. enough, too much, a lot, plenty of etc.:

There wasn't **enough snow** for us **to ski**.

When we want to refer to the subject of the infinitive verb, we use for. This can be used before any infinitive structure:

It's very difficult for me **to decide**.

Infinitives

- After **something, anywhere** etc.:

Is there **anything** **to eat**?

There's **nowhere** **to go** at night.

- After **question words** (except **why**):

I don't know **where** **to go** or **what** **to do**.

Infinitives

- After superlatives and first, second, last etc.:

He's the youngest player ever **to play** for England.

Who was the first person **to walk** on the moon?