



The Objective with the Infinitive Construction

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- *E.g. I didn't want **him to see** me here.*

him to see – the objective infinite construction

The Function in the Sentence - the
Complex Object

- The Complex Object =
a Noun/a Pronoun + the Infinitive

e.g. We know **gravity to pull on** every
particle of a body

e.g. Uncle Podger wanted **us to help** him

The Objective Predicative Construction of this type is used after the following verbs:

- 1) Verbs of wish and intention:

- *to wish,*

- *to want,*

- *to desire,*

- *to choose,*

- *to prefer,*

- *should/would like,*

- *to intend,*

- *to mean.*

The infinitive can be only non-perfect, as it *denotes an unfulfilled action.*

E.g. He **would like** *you to see him in his office.*

Eg. I **did not mean** *it to be told to her.*



2) Verbs of **emotion and attitude**

to like/to dislike,

to love,


to hate,

to cannot/could not bear.

- They can be followed only by non-perfect forms of the infinitive.

E.g. **I can't bear** *people to be unhappy or upset.*

E.g. **I hate** *you to go away.*

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- **3. Verbs of mental activity** (*to think, to suppose, to consider, to believe, to know, to find, to expect, to imagine, to understand, to assume, to acknowledge, to feel, to trust, etc.*).

After these verbs the infinitive may be used in any form, depending on the time relation between the two actions:

E.g. He **believed** *Jennie to be playing in the garden.*

E.g. I **supposed** *him to have been married to her years ago.*

- If the action of the infinitive refers to the person, denoted by the subject, the corresponding reflexive pronoun is used.

E.g. I **know** myself *to be rather slow.*

- 4. **Verbs of declaring** (*to declare, to report, to pronounce*).

All forms of the infinitive are possible.

e.g. They **reported** *the plane to have been lost*.

- **5. Verbs of perception** (*to see, to watch, to hear, to feel, to observe, to notice*).

After these verbs a bare non-perfect active infinitive is used.

e.g We **saw** *planes zoom into the air*.

e.g They **felt** *the earth shake under their feet*.

- 6. **Causative verbs** (*to make, to have*) take a complex object with a bare infinitive, usually it is a non-perfect infinitive, as the action is the result of inducement.

With other verbs of **inducement** (*to order, to command, to ask, to allow, etc.*) the objective with the infinitive construction can have only the passive infinitive.

e.g. She **would not allow** *the life of the child to be risked*.

- If the infinitive is active, it does not form a complex object; both the elements should be treated as different parts of the sentence, the first as an indirect recipient object, the second as a direct object:

e.g. He **ordered** *him* to come. (Whom did he order come? What did he order him?)