

Use **to + infinitive**

to express purpose

I'll call her **to tell** her what happened.
We're going to the market **to buy** some food.

after most adjectives

I'm **glad to know** you passed the test.
It's **nice to hear** that.

after **too/enough** with adjective

He is **too young to be** here.
He **isn't old enough to vote**.

after **would + like/love/hate/prefer**

I'd **like to go** to the cinema.
I'd **hate to see** that.

after most verbs + person

He **told me to wait**.
I **want you to study** more.

after **what, where, when, why, etc.**

I don't know **what to do**.
Can you tell us **how to find** the place?

after certain verbs (see verb list below)

We **wanted to stay** a bit longer.
He **offered to help** us.

Verbs followed by **to + infinitive**

afford, agree, appear, be able, choose, decide, deserve, expect, happen, help, hesitate, hope, learn, make, manage, offer, plan, pretend, promise, refuse, seem, teach, tend, want.

Negative form: **not + to-infinitive**

He pretended **not to see** me.
I promise **not to do** it again.

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Use infinitive without **to**

after modal verbs (**will, can, must should, etc.**)

I **can't lend** you any money, sorry.
You **must call** her immediately.

after **make/let + person**

He **made us wait** for a long time.
They don't **let me express** myself.

Use **-ing verb**

as the subject of a sentence

Cheating is not allowed.
Eating candy is bad for your teeth.

after a preposition

I'm **tired of** waiting for you.
He's **very good at** listening to people.

after **spend/waste + time/money/etc.**

I'd like **to spend more time playing** with my kids.
Don't **waste your money buying** in that store.

after **like/love/hate/prefer/don't mind**

I **love cycling**.
I **hate getting up** early.

after certain verbs (see verb list below)

He **suggested going to** the museum.
He **denied stealing** the money.

Verbs followed by **-ing**

admit, avoid, deny, enjoy, fancy, feel like, finish, keep, imagine, involve, mind, miss, practise, recommend, regret, spend, suggest

Negative form: **not + verb-ing**

I love **not having** to go to work.
Can you imagine **not needing** money to live?

Some Verbs Followed by the Gerund

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
acknowledge	<i>to recognize what someone has done</i>	She acknowledges his <i>working</i> hard on the project.
admit	<i>to say that you have done</i>	Peter admits <i>wasting</i> time and money.
advise	<i>to give advice</i>	I advise <i>saving</i> a little money every month.
allow	<i>to permit</i>	She allows <i>using</i> smartphones in class.
appreciate	<i>to be grateful for</i>	Jack appreciates your <i>helping</i> him out with the project.
avoid	<i>to try not to do</i>	She avoids <i>dating</i> men over 30.
celebrate	<i>to party about</i>	We'll celebrate <i>working</i> together for over 50 years.
confess	<i>to admit that you did</i>	Alice confessed <i>stealing</i> the money from her sister.
consider	<i>to think about</i>	We're <i>considering</i> buying a new house.
defend	<i>to give reasons why you did</i>	They defend <i>purchasing</i> the new car because they have two jobs.
detest	<i>to hate, despise</i>	Jack detests <i>learning</i> new vocabulary.
discuss	<i>to talk about</i>	We like to discuss <i>learning</i> techniques.
dislike	<i>to not like</i>	Bob dislikes <i>having</i> to work so hard.
dispute	<i>to say you didn't do</i>	They dispute <i>stealing</i> the merchandise.
enjoy	<i>to have a good time doing</i>	Sarah enjoys <i>cooking</i> fine dinners.
explain	<i>to give details about</i>	He'll explain <i>purchasing</i> online next week.
fear	<i>to be afraid of</i>	I fear <i>flying</i> in airplanes.
finish	<i>to stop doing</i>	We finished <i>shopping</i> and went home.
forgive	<i>to not be angry at someone anymore</i>	They forgave <i>stealing</i> the candy as the children didn't know it was wrong.
mind	<i>to object to</i>	I don't mind <i>smoking</i> .
miss	<i>to want something you don't have</i>	I miss <i>having</i> more free time.
omit	<i>to leave out, delete</i>	We omitted <i>discussing</i> the new Smith account during the meeting.
permit	<i>to allow</i>	We'll permit <i>fishing</i> on Saturdays.
practice	<i>to do over and over again</i>	Practice <i>playing</i> scales for 30 minutes every day.
recommend	<i>to tell someone they should do something</i>	They recommend <i>purchasing</i> insurance with this product.
suggest	<i>to say someone should do something</i>	I suggest <i>buying</i> a new camera.
understand	<i>to comprehend</i>	He understands <i>investing</i> in the stock market.

Some Verbs Followed by the Infinitive

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
agree	<i>to say you will do</i>	Tom agreed <i>to help</i> me with the work.
appear	<i>to seem to be</i>	She appeared <i>to wait</i> for a moment.
arrange	<i>to put in some order</i>	I arranged <i>to meet</i> David next week.
ask	<i>to inquire</i>	They asked <i>to join</i> us for dinner.
attempt	<i>to try</i>	Doug attempted <i>to say</i> something.
can/can't wait	<i>to allow time for</i>	Susan can't wait <i>to see</i> Tom next week.
choose	<i>to make a choice</i>	Chris chose <i>to not visit</i> his friends last weekend.
come	<i>to arrive at</i>	They came <i>to purchase</i> a new car.
decide	<i>to make a decision</i>	He decided <i>to go</i> to university in San Francisco.
expect	<i>to feel something should happen</i>	She expects <i>to arrive</i> in 30 minutes.
get	<i>to receive</i>	We got <i>to see</i> our friends last week.
hope	<i>to want to happen</i>	I hope <i>to see</i> you soon.
hurry	<i>to go to quickly</i>	Mack is hurrying <i>to finish</i> the report by 3 this afternoon.
learn	<i>to study and memorize</i>	The children learned <i>to do</i> many things at camp this summer.
manage	<i>to do with difficulty</i>	Don managed <i>to finish</i> the job on time.
offer	<i>to say you will do, give, provide</i>	We offered <i>to help</i> them with their homework.
pay	<i>to spend money on</i>	We paid <i>to become</i> informed about the matter.
plan	<i>to think about the future</i>	I plan <i>to visit</i> Chicago someday.
prepare	<i>to get ready for</i>	They are preparing <i>to leave</i> on vacation.
pretend	<i>to act as if</i>	The boy pretended <i>to be</i> a ghost.
promise	<i>to say you will do</i>	I promise <i>to come</i> over tonight for dinner.
refuse	<i>to say you will not do</i>	Jane refused <i>to do</i> what he asked.
request	<i>to ask for</i>	The man requested <i>to speak</i> to a lawyer.
seem	<i>to appear</i>	It seems <i>to be</i> very easy.
swear	<i>to promise to do</i>	I swear <i>to be</i> a good boy in the future.
threaten	<i>to say you will do a bad thing to someone</i>	The boss threatened <i>to fire</i> everyone.
wait	<i>to let time pass</i>	We waited <i>to see</i> the doctor for three hours.
want	<i>to desire</i>	I want <i>to help</i> you.
wish	<i>to want to do</i>	She wishes <i>to visit</i> her parents in Ireland.