

USE OF THE INFINITIVE WITH “TO”

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn about the verbs that need to be followed by an infinitive with “to”.
Key Goals	Here is an outline of what you will learn today: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The patterns to build positive, negative and interrogative sentences with verbs followed by an infinitive with “to”.

1. The patterns to build positive, negative and interrogative sentences with verbs followed by an infinitive with “to”.

After these verbs you can use **“TO” + INFINITIVE**:

- Offer
- Decide
- Hope
- Promise
- Agree
- Plan
- Refuse
- Arrange
- Fail
- Forget
- Learn

Examples:

It was late so we **decided** to take a taxi home.

How old were you when you **learnt** to swim?

I tried the English exam but I **failed** it.

I **promise** to do my best to help you.

- The negative form is “**NOT TO**” + **INFINITIVE**

Exercise:

Complete the sentences for these short dialogues:

For example: - Please help me. - OK She agreed to help him.

1. - Shall we get married? - Yes, let's.

_____.

2. - Can I carry your bag for you? - No, thanks.

_____.

3. - Let's meet at 8.00 o'clock. - OK, fine.

_____.

4. - What's your name? - I'm not going to tell you.

_____.

5. - Please, don't tell anyone. - I won't. I promise.

_____.

Answers:

1. They decided to get married.
2. He offered to help her.
3. They arranged to meet at 8 o' clock.
4. She refused to tell her name.
5. She promised not to tell anyone.

Exercise:

Complete each sentence with a suitable verb.

Choose one of the following verbs: write, not buy, use, pass

For example: She offered me **to drive** me home.

1. Don't forget _____ me an email tomorrow. (write)
2. Jill has decided _____ a new English dictionary. (not buy)
3. We've got a new computer at school but I haven't learnt _____ it yet. (use)
4. Karen failed _____ her driving test. (pass)

Answers:

1. to write
2. not to buy
3. to use
4. to pass

We also use “**TO**” + **INFINITIVE** after:

- seem
- appear
- pretend

Examples:

They **seem** to have plenty of money.

Jenny **appears** to know what she’s doing.

Anne **pretended** not to see me in the corridor.

After some verbs you can use the question words **what, where, how** + “**to**” + **infinitive**:

- ask
- decide
- know
- remember
- forget
- explain
- learn
- understand

Examples:

We haven’t decided **what** to do on Saturday.

Have you decided **where** to go for your holidays?

Do you understand **how** to do it?

Exercise:

Complete each sentence using what, how, where + one of the following verbs: do, sit, ride, say, use.

For example: do you know how to get to John's house?

1. Can you show me _____ this washing machine?
2. Would you know _____ if there was a fire in the building?
3. You'll never forget _____ a bicycle once you've learnt.
4. I was really astonished. I didn't know _____.
5. The teacher never tells the kids _____ in the classroom.

Answers:

1. how to use
2. what to do
3. how to ride
4. what to say
5. where to sit

Learn More:

<https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/infinitive-gerund/exercises?02>

<https://www.englishpractice.com/quiz/exercise-infinitives/>

<https://www.engvid.com/10-verbs-followed-by-infinitives/>