

For-phrases with the Infinitive

for + someone / something + to-infinitive

The noun or pronoun used after “for” shows who is supposed to perform the action expressed by the infinitive.

Subject

(After the introductory “it”)

*It was very difficult **for me to believe** this.*

Object

(After the adjectives *anxious, eager, impatient*; the verbs *wait, long, arrange*)

*He was anxious / eager **for her to meet** his new friends.*

*By Friday afternoon, I'm usually impatient **for the weekend to begin**.*

*Everyone was waiting **for someone else to speak**.*

*She is longing **for her husband to stop** commuting every day.*

*I've arranged (with my firm) **for a taxi to pick us up** at 10 o'clock.*

Predicative

*That is **for me to decide**, isn't it?*

*Our plan was **for one of us to travel** by train with all the bags.*

*It's not **for the pupil to tell** the teacher what to do.*

Attribute

*It was a mistake **for me to come** here.*

*It is an easy plan **for us to fulfil**.*

Adverbial modifier of purpose

*He stepped aside **for us to pass**.*

Adverbial modifier of result

*It is too far **for you to go** there alone.*

*This article is easy enough **for you to translate**.*

Exercise 1. Change the sentences so as to use infinitive for-phrases.

1. Peter lifted his small son onto his shoulders so that he could see the parade.
2. Some people think it is wrong to leave young children at home alone. (use the Passive Infinitive)
3. There have been repeated requests in order that the United Nations should send peace-keeping forces to the area.
4. It's wrong that scientists use mice for experiments.
5. I locked the door and took the phone off the hook so that no one could disturb me.
6. I had to wait for an hour at the airport before my suitcase came round on the conveyor belt.
7. The Knights of the Round Table sat at a round table so that none of them would appear to have a higher rank than the others.
8. I'm enclosing a list of my proposals so that you can consider them before our next meeting.
9. “To catch the post” means to post letters, etc. in time so that they can be collected that day.
10. It is essential that we maintain high standards.

Exercise 2. Change the sentences so as to use infinitive for-phrases.

1. My sister has promised to call me. I'm waiting.
2. They should have every possible advantage. She is anxious.
3. The problem is easy. You can solve it alone.
4. You can go and see everything with your own eyes. That would be the best thing.
5. You don't have to do it yourself. There is no need.
6. Crime, poverty and other problems must be dealt with. The world community is anxious.
7. I wanted to have a snack. He bought a sandwich.
8. Some changes have to be made. The students are impatient...
9. The doctor is to see Paul next Tuesday. I've arranged...
10. Her son is going to have swimming lessons. She has arranged...

Exercise 3. Translate into English using infinitive for-phrases.

1. Я жду, когда ты закончишь говорить по телефону.
2. Мэри очень хочет, чтобы Джек представил ее своему другу.
3. Бэтси с нетерпением ждет, когда ее дети наконец приедут домой на каникулы.
4. Дэнни договорился, чтобы его сын брал уроки разговорного французского.
5. Будет лучше, если ты перестанешь винить себя.

Infinitive Constructions

1. Complex Object

verb + noun / pronoun + (to)-infinitive

A. You can use this verb pattern after some common verbs: *want, wish, expect, (would) like, (would) love, (would) prefer, (would) hate*. You use Infinitive with “to” after these verbs.

e.g. *I'd like you to take up English.*

He didn't want his son to study abroad.

Did you expect this to happen?

Exercise 4. Complete the sentences using the information given.

1. Their son doesn't show enough respect for his parents. The parents want ...
2. You don't treat me as a grown up. I would prefer ...
3. Why don't you go along with me if you have nothing better to do? I'd like ...
4. He goes to the parties without her. She doesn't want ...
5. They are unwilling to work every weekend without pay. You can't expect...
6. Poor Rachel! Her children are contradicting her all the time. I would hate my children ...
7. Do you think he will stay in tonight? Do you expect ...
8. I'm so sorry you can't see me off! I'd love ...
9. No one had expected that the factory would close down. No one had expected ...
10. None of us wants to be told blunt truth. None of us wants other people...

B. Some verbs of perception *feel, hear, see, watch, notice* can be followed either by an infinitive without “to” or present participle (-ing form).

	Present Participle (-ing form)	Infinitive without to
incomplete action	I heard him talking on the phone. (can suggest that you watched, heard, etc. <u>only a part of the action</u>)	—
complete action	I heard him talking on the phone. (can suggest that you watched, heard, etc. <u>from the start to the finish</u> the action which happened over a period of time)	I saw him lock the door. (suggests that you watched, heard, etc. the action <u>from the start to the finish</u>)
succession of actions	—	I saw her wash the dishes and put them in the cupboard.

- Notes:**
1. The verb of perception **smell** is normally used with an -ing form.
 2. The verbs of perception **notice, observe** can take an infinitive or present participle without any change of meaning.
e.g. *The teacher observed her **climb** / **climbing** over the wall.*
*She noticed a car **stop** / **stopping** outside the house.*
 3. You CANNOT use the pattern *verb + noun / pronoun + infinitive / present participle* if the verbs **hear, see, notice, feel, observe** change their lexical meaning and are no longer verbs of perception. You MUST use a *that*-clause.
e.g. *She **felt** (= believed) that he no longer loved her.*
*I **see** (= think, understand) you're going out tonight.*
*He **noticed** (= realized) that she was in a bad mood.*
*In all these films one **observes** (= notices) that directors are taking a new interest in Native American culture.*

Exercise 5. Open the brackets using the verbs in the correct form.

1. He could smell something (burn) in the kitchen.
2. He watched his father (rise) from the chair, (lift) the dog and (place) it in the hall.
3. They are never in agreement. You can hear them (quarrel) again!
4. They noticed the blood (drip) from his wounds.
5. He saw them (tiptoe) from room to room, afraid to speak above a whisper.
6. I felt Mary (clutch) my hand.
7. Joanne waited until she heard the door of the bedroom (close).
8. Sarah watched him (lay) the table for supper.
9. George could hear the horse (neigh) in the stable.
10. I can't bear to see people (drink) wine which is not perfect.
11. They saw Bob (enter) the building at 8.30.
12. She heard Mr Green (say) that the Amazonian rainforest is disappearing at an alarming rate.
13. Nobody has ever heard him (say) "thank you" in his life.
14. Sam saw the stranger (reach) for the bottle and (fill) the glass.
15. He saw the detective (leave) the house, (get) into the car and (drive) away.

Study the chart. Compare the use of different patterns after the verbs *see, hear, notice, feel*.

	Verb	Noun / Pronoun + Infinitive / Present Participle	That-clause
Fred	saw	her open the letter.	
I	can see	the two men struggling for the knife.	
She	saw (= understood, thought)	—	that he was confused at a compliment.
Jason	heard	the front door click as he shut it behind him.	
We	can hear	the old man snoring.	
I	hear ¹ (= learnt, was told, found out)	—	(that) long skirts are no longer in fashion.
I	noticed	the burglar climb through the window.	
The boss	didn't notice	me coming to work late.	
They	didn't notice (= didn't realize)	—	that it was getting late.
She	felt	a tear escape and trickle down her cheek.	
Nancy	could feel	a cold hand touching her on the arm.	
I	felt (= knew)	—	that I had the ability to become a great writer.

The Present Simple often replaces the Past Simple or Present Perfect in expressions like "I see / I hear" used to talk about things one has found out.

Exercise 6. Translate into English using complex object if possible.

1. Я слышал, ваша дочь скоро выходит замуж?
2. Он заметил (обратил внимание), что брак по расчету часто бывает удачнее брака по любви.
3. Я видела, как Боб встал и уступил место молодой женщине.
4. Она услышала, как муж говорит ей какие-то успокаивающие слова.
5. Джон хочет, чтобы его друзья помогли ему найти работу.
6. Я вижу, вы не верите в любовь с первого взгляда.
7. Вы заметили, что он почувствовал себя неудобно, услышав эти слова?
8. Николь услышала, как Поль хлопнул (slam) дверью и заперся у себя в комнате.
9. Мне бы очень не понравилось (hate), если бы моя жена разговаривала со мной таким тоном.
10. Он почувствовал, что в соседней квартире что-то горит.
11. Я слышал, как Поль сказал, что его собираются повысить в должности.
12. Она бы предпочла, чтобы её босс относился к ней более уважительно.
13. Она увидела, как полицейский подошел к пожилому мужчине и помог ему сесть в автобус.
14. Я слышала, ваш сын только что развелся.
15. Он почувствовал, что его друг не собирается делиться с ним своими секретами.

C Causative verbs followed by complex object.

The verbs listed below are called **causative** verbs (глаголы побуждения). They show that one person causes a second to do something for the first person. One can cause somebody to do something for him by ASKING, PERSUADING, or FORCING the person.

Verb + Infinitive without <i>to</i>		Equivalents
make	I made him do his homework. (<i>заставлять, принуждать</i>)	– force
have	1. Jane has her son clean his room on Sundays. (<i>веле́ть, поруча́ть</i>)	– tell, order, instruct
	2. We had them postpone the discussion. (<i>до-быва́ться</i>)	– persuade
	3. I won't have you say such things in my presence. (<i>позволя́ть, допуска́ть</i>)	– won't allow / let

Verb + Infinitive with <i>to</i>		Equivalents
get	1. I must get John to help me with the computer. (<i>попро́суть</i>)	– ask
	2. You'll never get me to do scuba diving. (<i>убе́дуть</i>)	– persuade
The verb <i>let</i> is a verb of permission and suggestion .		
Verb + Infinitive without <i>to</i>		Equivalents
let	1. Let him go home. (<i>позво́лить, нyste</i>)	– allow, permit
	I'm letting you stay up late just this once. (<i>позво́лять, разре́шать</i>)	
	2. Let's go out to dinner, shall we? Let's not argue / (<i>Br</i> also) Don't let's argue . (<i>дава́йте / Что если ...</i>)	– suggest / Why not... / How about...

- Notes:**
- After the verb **make** in the passive voice an infinitive is used with “to”.
e.g. I *made* him **do** this. *But:* He *was made to do* this.
 - The verbs **let**, **get** and **have** are NOT used in the passive. In passive sentences you replace these verbs with their equivalents.
e.g. She *let* him **go**. *But:* He *was allowed to go*.
He *had* them **sign** the contract. *But:* They *were caused / persuaded to sign* the contract.

Exercise 7. Make the following sentences passive.

- They made me wait two hours for an appointment.
- You cannot make people learn if they don't want to.
- She let us come in.
- He got his son to mow the grass.
- She got Mr. Green to lend her some money.
- She didn't let the children gulp the food. She expected them to learn good table manners.
- They got him to produce all the evidence he had.
- They made the children stay away from the fire.
- I had John find me a house.
- You should make your son tell the truth.

2. Complex Subject

A.

noun / pronoun + active verb + *to*-infinitive

seem	кажется (казалось), по-видимому,	All the infinitive forms are possible.
appear (<i>fm</i>)	похоже	
happen	случайно; случилось так, что ...	The Present Infinitive of the verb to be .
prove (to be)	оказывается	
turn out (to be)		

Notes: 1. The verbs *prove* and *turn out* are normally followed by the verb **to be**. With the infinitives other than **to be**, these verbs are used with a *that*-clause and an introductory "it".

e.g. Life turned out **to be** stranger than fiction.

But: It turned out that her husband had made a lot of debts.

2. In order to express negative ideas either the first verb or the infinitive can be made negative. The first structure is more common in an informal style.

e.g. Bob doesn't seem to know maths.

Bob seems not to know maths.

3. You can use **there** with *appear* and *seem* followed by **to be** or **to have been**.

e.g. There appeared / seemed **to be** some difficulty in fixing a date for the meeting.

There don't seem **to be** many people in the restaurant.

There appears / seems **to have been** a mistake over the numbers.

Exercise 8. Paraphrase the sentences using the infinitive.

- Apparently he has left without saying good-bye. (appear)
- It seems that you don't know how to make him happy.
- It appears that the soldiers are digging a large trench.
- It so happened that Steve met Jane at a graduation party.
- I think she can remain coolheaded in a crisis. (seem)
- It appears that the rate of inflation has been falling gradually since the beginning of the year.
- I think he's reached a turning point in his career. (seem)
- It looked like he had been collecting diamonds for many years. (seem)
- It so happened that the ship had sunk on the way to Portugal.
- It turned out that his affairs were in perfect order.

Exercise 9. Open the brackets using the correct form of the infinitive.

- The discussion appears (bring) very good results.
- They seem (take) a long time to decide.
- Susan turned out (be) better informed than we had expected.
- Yesterday's meeting appears (hold) in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.
- He doesn't appear (want) to do anything but have a good time.
- I keep sneezing. I seem (catch) a cold.
- He appears (be) sincere but I don't completely trust him.
- When we happened (meet) again in Cairo, she said: "It must be fate."
- They accused her of being a witch because she seemed (have) the ability to predict the future.
- The car doesn't seem (suffer) great damage.

Exercise 10. Translate into English using the infinitive.

- Похоже, они знают друг друга с детства.
- По-видимому, вам все равно, что другие думают о вас.
- Мне доводилось работать над такими проектами.
- Оказалось, что они выпускники одного и того же колледжа.
- Мое первое впечатление оказалось неверным.
- Кажется, в последнее время в нашем городе было несколько случаев квартирных краж.
- Похоже, что-то не в порядке с двигателем, машина не заводится.
- Кажется, в магазине было много народа, когда произошёл взрыв.
- Стив оказался ненадёжным и безответственным человеком.
- Случилось так, что он оказался в затруднительном положении.

B. You can use *to*-infinitive after **certain, sure, (un)likely** to express the speaker's attitude towards the future.

noun / pronoun + link verb + <i>certain / sure + to</i>-infinitive <i>likely / unlikely</i>
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e.g. She **is sure to come**. (= extremely likely)

Она наверняка (несомненно) придет.

The team **looks almost certain to win** the match. (= very probable)

Весьма вероятно, что команда выиграет матч.

He **is likely to call** tonight. (= possibility)

Возможно (по-видимому, может быть), он позвонит сегодня вечером.

The prices **are unlikely to stop** rising in the near future. (= doubtful possibility)

Маловероятно (вряд ли), что рост цен прекратится в ближайшем будущем.

Notes: 1. This pattern is mostly used to talk about the future. This does not mean, however, that you cannot use it to talk about past possibility.

e.g. He is likely **to have arrived** yesterday.

Он, возможно (по-видимому), приехал вчера.

2. You can use negative infinitive after the words **certain** and **sure**.

e.g. She is certain **not to give** you any present.

Наверняка она вам ничего не подарит.

3. This pattern is extremely useful to make questions expressing possibility.

Affirmative

He may be home at midnight.

He will probably be home at midnight.

Interrogative

Is he likely to be home

at midnight?

Exercise 11. Paraphrase the sentences using complex subject.

1. They may get married soon.
2. Oil prices will certainly rise following the agreement to limit production.
3. Perhaps, the children will stay with the father after the divorce.
4. There was only a doubtful possibility that the old system would survive. (use "very unlikely")
5. After all his hard work, he will certainly pass his exams.
6. They will no doubt discuss these issues again at the next meeting.
7. It was possible that the team would win the match.
8. They will deliver the table on Friday for sure.
9. It was very likely (that) she would win the election if the opinion polls were accurate.
10. She will certainly not make a hasty decision.

Exercise 12. Translate into English using complex subject.

1. Вероятно, его отношение к спорту изменится после несчастного случая.
2. Наверняка, она обратится к нему за утешением и поддержкой.
3. Похоже, они уладят ссору.
4. По-видимому, в старости она не найдет утешения в детях.
5. Они наверняка удовлетворят ваши требования.

Exercise 13. Translate into English paying attention to the meaning of the verb **кажется**.

- He **seems** to know the truth. (**seem** = give the idea or effect of being) **Кажется, он знает правду.**
- They **are likely** to leave soon. (**likely** = probable, expected)
Кажется, они скоро приедут.

1. Кажется, они были недовольны.
2. Кажется, он не закончит работу в срок.
3. Вы, кажется, не знаете этого правила.
4. Кажется, погода меняется к лучшему.
5. Кажется, погода изменится к лучшему.

C

noun / pronoun + passive verb + to-infinitive

You can use the following common verbs in this pattern: *acknowledge, allege, believe, consider, know, report, say, suppose, think, understand, be rumoured* and some others.

is acknowledged	- общепризнанно
is alleged	- говорят, считают, что (якобы)
is believed	- полагают, думают, считают
is considered	- считают, полагают; считается
is expected	- предполагается, ожидается
is known	- известно
is reported	- сообщают; сообщается
is rumoured	- ходят слухи, поговаривают
is said	- говорят
is supposed	- полагают
is thought	- считают, полагают
is understood	- предполагают, предполагается, по имеющимся сведениям

e.g. **He is considered to be** an expert on computers.

They are thought to be hiding in the woods.

Da Vinci is said to have designed the first submarine.

Notes: The verb **suppose** can be used in this pattern.

e.g. Between twins **there's supposed to exist** a special closeness.

However, in the great majority of cases, this verb conveys the idea of duty.

e.g. You are supposed to be in class. (You ought to be in class / It's your duty... / You're expected...)

You are not supposed to say things like that. I'm your mother.

Exercise 14. Paraphrase the sentences using complex subject.

It is known that

1. Field hockey was brought to the USA by an English teacher visiting Harvard in 1901.
2. Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to ride in an automobile. (August 22, 1902).
3. Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928. The discovery was made by accident.
4. Albert Einstein was offered presidency of the state of Israel in 1952. He did not accept it.
5. England conquered and colonised Wales in the 1280s.

Many people think that

1. Loch Ness monster is a large animal like a dinosaur.
2. Some jungle crocodiles can bite half an hour or more after their death.
3. The Vikings came to America before Columbus.
4. Golf was invented in China.
5. West Side Story is the best musical work of Leonard Bernstein.

People consider(-ed) that

1. The Grand Canyon is one of the most spectacular sights in the USA. (generally)
2. The Empire State Building was the tallest building in the world for many years.
3. Villages are better places to live, as they are quieter and less polluted than towns.
4. The Forth Bridge is a fine example of 19th century engineering. (1889)
5. The cheetah is the fastest mammal in the world.

It is said that

1. Tropical rainforests are the home of several million tribal people.
2. Rainforests are disappearing at an alarming rate.
3. Rainforests act as the lungs and watersheds of the world.
4. A hardwood tree takes about 150 years to reach maturity.
5. Fifty to seventy percent of all the earth's animal, plant and bacteria species live in the tropical rainforests.

Exercise 15. Translate into English using complex subject.

1. Известно, что институт брака появился много веков назад.
2. Считается, что в наши дни подростки быстрее достигают зрелости.
3. Сообщают, что ситуация в регионе быстро ухудшается.
4. Говорят, что она вышла замуж по расчету (ради денег).
5. Известно, что они были преданы друг другу всю жизнь.
6. Многие думают, что их отношения были испорчены ревностью.
7. Сообщают, что в данный момент 32% пар в Голландии живут вместе вне брака.
8. Его считали величайшим художником всех времён (of all time).
9. Известно, что Маргарет Тэтчер называли «железной леди».
10. Пушкин считается общепризнанным гением.