

## GRAMMAR

### INFINITIVE AND INFINITIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

#### ➤ Forms

|                           | Active             | Passive           |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Simple</b>             | to do              | to be done        |
| <b>Perfect</b>            | to have done       | to have been done |
| <b>Continuous</b>         | to be doing        | –                 |
| <b>Perfect Continuous</b> | to have been doing | –                 |

**The Simple Infinitive** and **the Continuous Infinitive** express actions *simultaneous* with the action of the finite verb (now / now; then / then → the Simple Infinitive or the Continuous Infinitive).

**The Perfect Infinitive** and **the Perfect Continuous Infinitive** express actions *prior* to the action of the finite verb (now / before now; then / before then → the Perfect Infinitive or the Perfect Continuous Infinitive).

*now / now* → *The Simple Infinitive*

I am pleased (*now*) that I see you in good health. I am pleased **to see** you in good health.

*now / now* → *The Continuous Infinitive*

I am not pleased (*now*) that I am working (*now*) such long hours. I am not pleased **to be working** such long hours.

*then / then* → *The Simple Infinitive*

I was pleased (*then*) that I saw him (*then*) in good health. I was pleased **to see** him in good health.

*then / then* → *The Continuous Infinitive*

I was not pleased (*then*) that I was working (*then*) such long hours. I was not pleased **to be working** such long hours.

\* \* \*

*now / before now* → *The Perfect Infinitive*

I am pleased (*now*) that I passed / have passed (*before now*) the exam. I am pleased **to have passed** the exam.

*now / before now* → *The Perfect Continuous Infinitive*

I am not pleased (*now*) that I have been waiting (*before now*) a long time. I am not pleased **to have been waiting** a long time.

*then / before then* → *The Perfect Infinitive*

I was pleased (*then*) that I had passed (*before then*) the exam. I was pleased **to have passed** the exam.

*then / before then* → *The Perfect Continuous Infinitive*

I was not pleased (*then*) that I had been waiting (*before then*) a long time. I was not pleased **to have been waiting** a long time.

### I. Common Structures with the Infinitive

#### Pattern 1

**Infinitive clause after the adjectives expressing someone's feelings.**

|              |            |          |           |
|--------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| delighted    | glad       | pleased  | sorry     |
| disappointed | (un) happy | proud    | surprised |
| fortunate    | (un) lucky | relieved | upset     |

You can use the infinitive clause if the subject is the same in both clauses. If the subjects are different, you must use a *that*-clause.

*They were glad **to know** the parcel had arrived safely.*

*He is lucky **to be going** by air.*

but: He was glad **that** they were coming to the party.

The most common infinitives used in this pattern are: *find, learn, hear, see, say, tell, inform.*

*I was relieved **to hear / see / learn** that I'd passed my exam.*

**Exercise 1. Combine the sentences using either an infinitive or a that-clause.**

1. a. Jane heard the news. She was unhappy.  
b. Jane was ill. I was very upset.
2. a. She accepted my proposal. I am happy.  
b. I have won the prize. I am happy.
3. a. She will see him at the picnic. She will be delighted.  
b. Everyone enjoyed the party. We were absolutely delighted.
4. a. You are very fortunate. You have found such a pleasant house.  
b. Emily failed the exam. John was disappointed.
5. a. Liza's boyfriend has found a new girlfriend. Liza is sad.  
b. Peter saw her in tears. He was very surprised.

**Pattern 2**

**Of-phrases with the infinitive.**

You use the structure "of someone + to-infinitive" after the following adjectives:

|                |          |            |              |
|----------------|----------|------------|--------------|
| brave          | generous | (im)polite | typical      |
| careless       | good     | sensible   | unreasonable |
| characteristic | (un)kind | silly      | wise         |
| clever         | mean     | stupid     | wrong, etc.  |

- e.g.** It's **kind of you** to help.  
It is **very bad of him** not to have told me that before.

**Exercise 2. Make up sentences to express your attitude towards someone's actions. Use the adjectives given in the box.**

**Model:** You lent me the money. → It was kind / nice / generous of you to lend me the money. He did not call her. → It's bad / inconsiderate of him not to have called her.

1. He sent me a birthday card and flowers.
2. He opened your letter.
3. He threw the ticket away.
4. He donated a lot of money to the orphans' asylum.
5. She didn't call and say she'd be late.

**Exercise 3. Translate into English using of-phrases with the infinitive.**

1. Так мило с вашей стороны, что вы зашли поздравить меня с днем рождения.
2. Для молодого поколения типично думать, что их молодость продлится вечно.
3. Было глупо с их стороны так быстро пожениться. Они недостаточно хорошо знали друг друга.
4. Было очень невежливо с твоей стороны даже не поздороваться с ним.
5. Было очень беспечно с твоей стороны не проверить, заперла ли ты дверь перед уходом.

**Exercise 4. Use the right form of the infinitive.**

1. Sarah pretended (enjoy) herself although she felt like crying.
2. We didn't expect (treat) like royalty.
3. They were fortunate (rescue) from the fire before the building collapsed.
4. Small children are eager (ask) questions and they always demand (answer).
5. The little boy was proud (skate) for so long without falling down.

## Exercise 5.

1. Ребенок был горд, что с ним обращались как со взрослым.
2. Мне жаль, что я вас прерываю, но у меня важное сообщение.
3. Она была счастлива, что ей подарили спортивный автомобиль.
4. Он сожалел, что причинил им столько беспокойства.
5. Она утверждает, что уже заплатила по счету.

### Pattern 3

**Infinitive used after the introductory *it* as subject of the sentence.**

**it + be + adjective / noun + to-infinitive**

*It's your duty to study.*

*It was a mistake to ignore his letter.*

*Wouldn't it be better to escape from the country?*

**Note:** In formal writing the infinitive can be placed before the verbs *be*, *appear*, *seem*.

*To exceed the speed limit is dangerous.*

*To save money now seems difficult.*

## Exercise 6.

**Model:** Studying is important. → It is important to study.

1. Making the same mistake twice is unforgivable.
2. Finding a good job is quite a problem nowadays.
3. Living on one income is difficult.
4. Arriving home after a long absence is always a pleasure.
5. Killing animals to make fur coats is cruel.

### Pattern 4

**Infinitive used after the introductory *it* as object of the sentence.**

If **it + be** is preceded by *think*, *find*, *consider*, *make (that)*, the words **be** and **that** can often be omitted.

**verb + it + adjective / noun + to-infinitive**

A.

find it difficult / hard / interesting / pointless / etc. to do smth  
think it polite / foolish / important / one's duty / etc. to do smth  
consider it tactless / reasonable / wrong / an honour / etc. to do smth

I find (*that*) it (*is*) impolite to interrupt people. → *I find it impolite to interrupt people.*

He thought (*that*) it (*was*) his duty to help her. → *He thought it his duty to help her.*

B.

make it a point / a rule to do smth  
make it painful / difficult / (im)possible / necessary (for smb) to do smth

*He makes it an invariable rule not to give anything to beggars.*

*My mother's illness made it impossible for her to walk.*

## Exercise 7. Complete the sentences using Pattern 4.

1. I don't think it is wise to worry about the future. I find it pointless...
2. I consider that it is a great honour to be here with you today. I consider...
3. It was always interesting for her to watch an artist at work. She found...
4. It is difficult for small children to say long words. Small children find...
5. I think it is foolish to talk about my problems with other people. I think...
6. It was difficult for him to find a job as he was disabled. His disability made...
7. I always try not to eat fatty foods. I make it a rule...
8. She felt pain when she walked because of the blister on her foot. The blister made...
9. He always took particular care to arrive fifteen minutes early at the office. He made it a point...
10. Patients will have to stay in hospital overnight because of the new treatment. The new treatment will make...

### Pattern 5

#### Infinitive used after adjectives describing personal opinions.

When you want to express an opinion about someone or something, you often use *an adjective* followed by “to”-infinitive. The adjectives commonly used in this pattern are: *easy, difficult, hard, (im)possible, (un)safe, (un)pleasant, etc.*

*The problem is **hard to solve**.*

*She was **interesting to talk to**.*

**Note:** In this function you always use Present Infinitive in the Active Voice.

#### Exercise 8. Paraphrase the sentences according to the model.

**Model:** It's pleasant to look at her. → She is pleasant to look at. It is easy to follow these instructions. → These instructions are easy to follow.

1. It is impossible to work for him — he is disorganized.
2. She always complains, it is difficult to please her.
3. It would be impossible to compensate for lack of parental attention.
4. It is not very easy to get on with Jane.
5. It was always interesting to talk to our professor.

#### Exercise 9. Translate into English using Pattern 5.

1. На него невозможно положиться, он очень забывчивый.
2. Ссору было нелегко уладить, хотя он очень старался.
3. Эту книгу интересно читать и легко пересказывать. Вот почему она пользуется спросом у студентов.
4. Его поступки невозможно предсказать.
5. С Джеком трудно ладить, он всегда чем-то недоволен.

### ➔ Pattern 6

#### Infinitive used as attribute to replace relative clauses.

It follows *nouns, pronouns, noun groups* that include an ordinal number (*the first, the second, etc.*), a superlative (*the oldest, the best, etc.*), or a word like *next, last, or only*.

**Notes:** 1. After **the first, the second, etc., the next, the last, the only** and **the superlatives** you can use either an active or a passive infinitive.

*He was the only person **to complain**.* (active meaning)

*She was the first **to be given** a prize.* (passive meaning)

2. After nouns / pronouns the infinitive shows what can be done or must be done with someone or something.

*George is the man **to vote for**.* (= for whom we should vote)

*I have letters **to write**.* (= that I must write)

3. After “there is / are” you can use a passive infinitive but an active infinitive is more usual.

*There is plenty **to do / to be done**.*

4. There is a difference in meaning between the following set phrases:

something / anything / nothing

**to do**

There is nothing to do.

*Нечем заняться.*

something / anything / nothing

**to be done**

There is nothing to be done.

*Ничего не поделаешь.*

**Exercise 10. Complete the sentences using the infinitives from the box.**

to catch   to find   to comfort   to satisfy   to receive   to settle   to feel   to take

1. There is nothing \_\_\_\_\_ ashamed of.
2. She is always busy. She has 3 children \_\_\_\_\_ care of.
3. I need money badly. I have a bill \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I really must go now. I've got a train \_\_\_\_\_.
5. He was the only person \_\_\_\_\_ no replies to his job applications — not a single one.

**Exercise 11. Paraphrase the sentences using the infinitive.**

1. All the hotels were full and we had nowhere where we could stay.
2. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first mountaineers who reached the top of Everest.
3. He was the last person who was convinced by my arguments.
4. They had so little that they could tell each other that they kept silent.
5. She was not the type who would put on weight.

**Exercise 12. Translate into English using Pattern 6.**

1. Он не такой человек, который бы стыдился своих поступков.
2. У нас есть вопрос, который нужно срочно решить.
3. Управляющий был первым, кто потребовал от него объяснений.
4. Нечему завидовать, комфорт — это еще не все, что нужно для счастья.
5. Делать нечего, придется удовлетворить его требования.

**Pattern 7**

**Infinitive used as attribute after nouns.**

| Some common <b>nouns</b> can be followed by an infinitive with “to”. |               |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| (in)ability                                                          | determination | promise         |
| attempt                                                              | eagerness     | refusal         |
| chance                                                               | effort        | (un)willingness |
| desire                                                               | failure       | wish            |
| decision                                                             | plan          |                 |

**Exercise 13. Complete the sentences using the nouns from the box above.**

1. The Gunpowder plot was a secret \_\_\_\_\_ to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London in 1605.
2. The government's latest promises are nothing but a further \_\_\_\_\_ to cynically deceive the public.
3. She shows a \_\_\_\_\_ to work on her own initiative.
4. He has a great \_\_\_\_\_ to succeed.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ to try living in a foreign country was not an easy one.

## Pattern 8

### Infinitive used to express purpose.

*She's saving up **to buy** a car.*

*You have to have a good nose **to be** a wine expert.*

*We must make every effort **to find** a diplomatic solution to the crisis.*

In a more formal style you can use **in order to** or **so as to**.

**e.g.** *She started to cry **in order to arouse** sympathy and pity from her parents.*

*That winter they had to burn some of their furniture **so as to keep** warm.*

In negative sentences, you normally use **so as not to** (NOT “**not to**” alone).

**e.g.** *We left early **so as not to be** late.*

***So as not to embarrass** him, I never criticized him for his frequent failures.*

### Exercise 14. Answer the questions using Pattern 8.

**Model:** Why did he drink lots of black coffee?

→ He drank lots of black coffee (in order) to keep awake. /

He drank lots of black coffee so as not to fall asleep.

1. Why does he often write things down?
2. Why did Mary practise English every day?
3. Why did you turn down the music?
4. Why is John saving up?
5. Why did Sam leave so early yesterday?

### Exercise 15. Translate into English using Pattern 8.

1. Я пришел сюда, чтобы потребовать объяснения.
2. Она устроилась поудобнее, чтобы не чувствовать себя уставшей к концу поездки.
3. На вечеринке Мэри танцевала только с Джоном, чтобы не вызвать его ревность.
4. Нам нужно встретиться, чтобы наконец решить эту проблему.
5. Она делала все возможное, чтобы догнать группу.

## ➔ Pattern 9

### Infinitive used to express result.

The Infinitive in this function is used after such words as **too** and **enough** + adjective / adverb.

|                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>too</b> + adjective / adverb + infinitive<br>adjective / adverb + <b>enough</b> + infinitive |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

*He is **clever enough to understand** it.*

*My mother is getting **too old to wear** extravagant dresses.*

**Notes:** 1. In this pattern you use Active Infinitive.

2. If the subject in the main clause and the object in the result clause describe the same thing or person, it is important **not** to put an object after the infinitive in a simple sentence.

**e.g.** The bag is so heavy that I can't carry it. → *The bag is too heavy to carry.* (NOT “to carry it”)

### Exercise 16. Paraphrase the sentences using Pattern 9.

**Model:** He is very tall and can touch the ceiling.

→ He is tall enough to touch the ceiling.

She is extremely lazy. She can't be a good worker.

→ She is too lazy to be a good worker.

1. He is so old that he could be your grandfather.
2. The student was so smart that he could solve any maths problem.
3. I can't do a parachute jump. I am not so brave.
4. These stars are very small. They can't be seen with the naked eye.
5. They are poor but proud; they never borrow money or ask for help.

**Model:** The bus was so full that we couldn't get on it.

→ The bus was too full to get on.

The theory was quite simple. We understood it.

→ The theory was simple enough to understand.

1. The bench was almost dry, and we could sit on it.
2. He ran so fast that we couldn't catch up with him.
3. The sea was so cold that we couldn't swim in it.
4. Some questions on the examination paper were extremely difficult. We couldn't answer them.
5. The jeans are so tight that I can't squeeze into them.

### Exercise 17. Translate into English using Pattern 9.

1. Они еще недостаточно взрослые, чтобы жить отдельно от родителей.
2. Он так молод, что не может решать такие вопросы самостоятельно.
3. Он слишком занят, чтобы уделять много внимания детям.
4. Мать так волновалась, что не могла заснуть, пока сын не вернулся домой.
5. Он не настолько честолюбив, чтобы стремиться сделать карьеру.