

UNIT 54 Verb + infinitive

a)

agree	offer	decide	appear	forget
refuse	attempt	plan	seem	learn (how)
promise	manage	arrange	pretend	dare
threaten	fail	hope	afford	tend

If these verbs are followed by another verb, the structure is usually *verb + to + infinitive*:

- As it was late, we **decided to take** a taxi home.
- I like George but I think he **tends to talk** too much.
- How old were you when you **learnt to drive**? (or 'learnt how to drive')
- They **agreed to lend** me some money when I told them the position I was in.

Note these examples with the *negative not to ...*:

- We **decided not to go** out because of the weather.
- He **pretended not to see** me as he passed me in the street.

With other important verbs you cannot use the infinitive. For example **think** and **suggest**:

- Are you **thinking of buying** a car? (not 'thinking to buy')
- Tom **suggested going** to the cinema. (not 'suggested to go')

b) There is a *continuous* infinitive (**to be doing**) and a *perfect* infinitive (**to have done**). We use these especially after **seem**, **appear** and **pretend**:

- I **pretended to be reading**. (= I pretended that I was reading)
- You **seem to have lost** weight. (= it seems that you have lost weight)

c) After **dare** you can use the infinitive with or without **to**:

- I **wouldn't dare to ask** him. or I **wouldn't dare ask** him.

But after **daren't** you must use the infinitive without **to**:

- I **daren't tell** him what happened. (not 'daren't to tell')

d) After the following verbs you can use a question word (**what/where/how** etc.) + **to + infinitive**:

ask decide know remember forget explain understand

We asked	how	to get	to the station.
Have you decided	where	to go	for your holidays?
Tom explained (to me)	how	to change	the wheel of the car.
I don't know	whether	to go	to the party or not.

Also: **show/tell/ask** someone **what/how/where** to do something:

- Can someone **show me how to change** the film in this camera?
- Ask Jack. He'll **tell you what to do**.

For verbs + infinitive see also Units 55-7.

UNIT 54 Exercises

54.1 In this exercise you have to complete each sentence with a suitable verb.

Example: Don't forget to post the letter I gave you.

- 1 Tom refused me any money.
- 2 Jill has decided not a car.
- 3 The thief got into the house because I forgot the window.
- 4 There was a lot of traffic but we managed to the airport in time.
- 5 I've arranged tennis tomorrow afternoon.
- 6 One day I'd like to learn an aeroplane.
- 7 I shouted to him. He pretended not me but I'm sure he did.
- 8 Why hasn't Sue arrived yet? She promised not late.
- 9 Our neighbour threatened the police if we didn't stop the noise.
- 10 Ann offered after our children while we were out.
- 11 The teacher was very strict. Nobody dared during his lessons.

54.2 This time you have to make sentences with **seem** and **appear**.

Examples: Is he waiting for someone? He appears to be waiting for someone.
Has she lost weight? She seems to have lost weight.

- 1 Is Tom worried about something? He seems
- 2 Does Ann like Jack? She appears
- 3 Is that man looking for something? He appears
- 4 Has that car broken down? It seems
- 5 Have they gone out? They appear

54.3 Now you have to use the structure in section d. Complete each sentence using **what** or **how** with one of the following verbs:

do say ~~get~~ use ride cook

Example: Do you know how to get to John's house?

- 1 Have you decided what for dinner this evening?
- 2 Can you show me the washing machine?
- 3 Do you know if there's a fire in the building?
- 4 You'll never forget a bicycle once you have learned.
- 5 I was really astonished. I didn't know

54.4 Now make your own sentences. Complete each sentence with **to + infinitive**.

Example: This evening I have arranged to go to the theatre

- 1 Not many people can afford
- 2 I would like to learn
- 3 One day I hope
- 4 I wouldn't dare
- 5 Sometimes I tend