

Infinitive - Too/Enough - The "-ing form"

The Infinitive



They **want to spend** their life together.
They **would like to have** two children.
They **may buy** a car next year.

The infinitive is the root form of the verb. There are two kinds of infinitive:

- the **to - infinitive** e.g. to stay, to go
- the **bare infinitive** which is the root form of the verb without to. e.g. stay, go

We use the to - infinitive:

- after verbs such as **advise, agree, decide, expect, hope, manage, offer, promise, refuse, seem, want, etc.**
e.g. He **refused to answer** my question.
- after **be + adjective** such as **glad, happy, nice, sorry, etc.**
e.g. It is **nice to be** back home.
Jack **will be glad to see** you.
- after some verbs such as **know, learn, remember, ask, want to know, etc.** when there is a question word (who, what, where, how, etc.) after them. 'Why' is not followed by an infinitive, but by a subject + verb.
e.g. I don't **know how to answer** this question.
but I didn't **know why he was crying**.
- with **too and enough.**
e.g. It's **too cold to go** outside.
Joe isn't **old enough to vote**.
- to express purpose.
e.g. I went to the florist's **to buy** some flowers.

We use the bare infinitive:

- after **modal verbs** (can, must, etc.).
e.g. You **can go** home now.
- after the verbs **let and make.**
e.g. My parents **let me have** a party for my birthday last month.

1

Write what the following words/phrases are followed by: **to - infinitive (T.I.)** or **bare infinitive (B.I.)**.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 1 could + | B.I. | 9 make sb + | |
| 2 agree + | | 10 seem + | |
| 3 let + | | 11 expect + | |
| 4 must + | | 12 can't + | |
| 5 want + | | 13 it is nice + | |
| 6 learn + | | 14 hope + | |
| 7 decide + | | 15 may + | |
| 8 promise + | | 16 advise + | |

2

In pairs, say what your parents (don't) let or (don't) make you do using the prompts below.

SA: My parents don't let me watch TV late at night.
SB: My parents make me study hard.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • watch TV late at night | • tidy my room |
| • study hard | • invite friends home |
| • go to parties at the weekend | • have breakfast every morning |
| • wear anything I want | • play music loud |

3

Fill in the gaps with one of the verbs from the list in the correct form.

climb, help, go, open, buy, post, stay, take, wash, ask

- I think I will ...**buy**... some flowers for my mother.
- Bill went to the post office some letters.
- Let me you with your homework.
- I want a mountain before I'm thirty.
- We must the car today. It's very dirty.
- He's too young in the house alone.
- I don't know how the windows in this room.
- I couldn't on holiday last summer.
- Can I you a question, please?
- They made her the money out of the safe.

Infinitive - Too/Enough - The "-ing form"

The Subject of the Infinitive



*I want to play
with the yellow ball.*



*I want you to
draw a picture.*

- ◆ When the subject of the main verb and the subject of the infinitive is the same, then the subject of the infinitive is omitted.

e.g. *I would like to stay here.* (The subject of the main verb and the infinitive is "I".)

- ◆ When the subject of the infinitive is different from the subject of the main verb, then the subject of the infinitive is not omitted. The subject of the infinitive can be a name (Mark), a noun (the boys) or an object pronoun (me, you, them, etc.) and goes before the infinitive.

e.g. <i>I would like</i>	<i>Lucy the girls her</i>	<i>to stay here.</i>
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4 Rephrase the following, as in the example.

- You must help me.
I want *you to help me*.
- They mustn't leave now.
I don't want
- She must eat her dinner.
I want
- He must visit Aunt Linda.
I want
- You mustn't talk to strangers.
I don't want
- Fiona mustn't go on holiday by herself.
I don't want
- They must do their homework now.
I want
- You must go to bed now.
I want

5

Fill in the gaps with one of the verbs from the list in the correct form of the infinitive.

be - leave - do - make - meet - tell



- 1 I really don't know what ...*to do*...



- 2 You mustn't anyone about this.



- 3 I can my own clothes.



- 4 I want you quiet.



- 5 I don't think the boss will let me earlier today.



- 6 I'm pleased you.

6

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the infinitive.

Dear Emma,

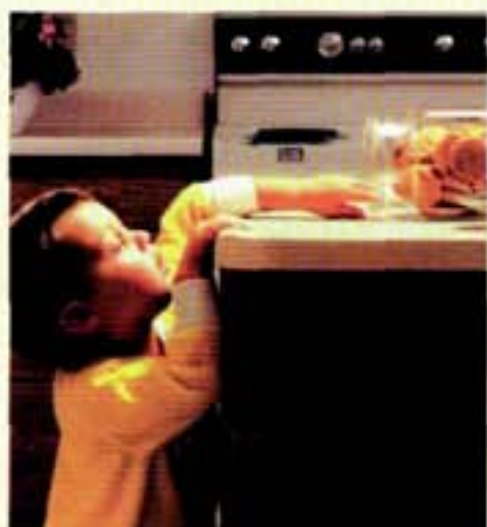
I'm writing (1) ...*to invite*... (invite) you to my birthday party next Saturday.

As you know, I'll be sixteen, so this is going to be a very special occasion for me. I've invited almost all of my friends and I really hope they'll all be able (2) (come). Could I (3) (ask) you (4) (help) me with the preparations, though? I would like (5) (decorate) the house with white and pink flowers, but I'm afraid I won't (6) (have) time to do everything by myself. I've also decided (7) (make) my own cake and I'll certainly need your help with that!

Please write back soon and let me (8) (know) if you can make it.

Best wishes,
Sandra

Too/Enough



He is **too short** to reach the biscuits.



She's **tall enough** to reach the top shelf.

- ◆ **Too** goes **before** adjectives or adverbs. It has a negative meaning and shows that something is more than enough, more than necessary or more than wanted.

too + adjective/adverb + to - infinitive

e.g. Sarah is **too young** to go to school. (Sarah is so young that she can't go to school.)

He speaks **too quickly** for me to understand him. (He speaks so quickly that I can't understand him.)

- ◆ **Enough** goes **before** nouns but **after** adjectives or adverbs. It has a positive meaning and shows that there is as much of something as is wanted or needed.

adjective/adverb + enough } + to - infinitive
enough + noun

e.g. She's **old enough** to go out on her own. (She can go out on her own.)

I've got **enough butter** to make a cake. (I can make a cake.)

enough ... + to - infinitive (positive meaning)

e.g. He is **strong enough** to lift the suitcase.

not enough ... + to - infinitive (negative meaning)

e.g. He is **not strong enough** to lift the suitcase.

too ... + to - infinitive (negative meaning)

e.g. He is **too weak** to lift the suitcase.

too ... for somebody/something + to - infinitive (negative meaning)

e.g. The suitcase is **too heavy** for him to lift.

7

Match column A with column B to make correct sentences.

A	B
1 It's only 6 o'clock. It's too	a enough to live alone.
2 He wasn't tall	b cold to go out without a coat.
3 I'm not old	c enough to go to bed now.
4 It's too	d enough to reach the cupboard.
5 The girl wasn't early	e expensive for me to buy.
6 The dress was too	f early to go to bed.
7 I'm not tired	g rich enough to buy a yacht.
8 We aren't	h enough to catch the train.

8

Complete the responses using **too** or **enough**.

- Can she win the race? (fast) Yes, *she's fast enough*.
- Can he buy this car? (cheap)
No,
- Can he wear this jacket? (small)
No,
- Can she carry the bags? (heavy)
No,
- Can he hear the music? (loud)
Yes,
- Can he touch the ceiling? (short)
No,

9

Rewrite the sentences using **too** or **enough**.

- Don't wear a T-shirt. It's cold outside.
It's *too cold outside to wear a T-shirt*.
- It's very hot today. Let's go to the beach.
It's
- We're not going to the party yet. It's early.
It's
- You can't touch the ceiling. You're short.
You're not
- You can buy this sweater. It's cheap.
This sweater is
- You can walk to school alone. You aren't too young.
You're
- They can buy a luxury yacht. They're rich.
They're
- You can lift this box. It's light.
This box

Infinitive - Too/Enough - The "-ing form"

The "-ing form"



Mr Scott likes painting.
Painting is his favourite hobby.

The **"-ing form"** is the verb form with the -ing suffix.

e.g. Sam likes **fishing**.

We use the "-ing form":

- ◆ as a noun. e.g. **Walking** is a good form of exercise.
- ◆ usually after the verbs **like, love, dislike, hate, enjoy, prefer**.
e.g. Helen **likes watching** old films on TV.
- ◆ after the verbs **start, begin, stop, finish**.
e.g. He **started writing** his composition an hour ago.
- ◆ after prepositions.
e.g. I'm tired **of going** to work by bus every morning.
- ◆ after the verb **go** when we talk about activities.
e.g. We usually **go skiing** at the weekends.
- ◆ after the expressions **be busy, it's no use, it's no good, it's (not) worth, what's the use of ...?, there's no point in**.
e.g. Father **is busy repairing** the car.
- ◆ after verbs such as **avoid, admit, confess, deny, look forward to, mind, regret, risk, spend, suggest, etc.**
e.g. Tony **avoided answering** my question.

NOTE:

- 1 We can use the -ing form or the to - infinitive after the verbs **start, begin, continue, like, love, prefer** and **hate**. e.g. He **started writing/to write** his speech last night.
- 2 We use the to - infinitive and not the -ing form after the expressions **would love/would like/would prefer**. e.g. I **would love to have** my own house one day. (NOT: ~~I would love having my own house one day.~~)
- 3 We can use the bare infinitive or the -ing form after the verbs **see, hear, feel** and **watch**. Note the difference in meaning, however.
 - a) I **saw** Peter **cross** the street. (I saw the whole action — by the time I left, Peter was on the other side of the street.)
 - b) I **saw** Peter **crossing** the street. (I only saw part of the action — I don't know if Peter got to the other side of the street by the time I left.)

10

Match column A with column B to make correct sentences.

A	B
1 Writing letters to friends	a is very tiring.
2 The baby started	b is bad for your teeth.
3 Running long distances	c crying when I left the room.
4 Speaking foreign languages	d skiing last winter.
5 They went	e is one of my hobbies.
6 Eating lots of sugar	f washing the dishes.
7 Tom doesn't like	g is useful for everyone.

11

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct infinitive form or the -ing form.

- 1 I would like ...**to go**... (go) out tonight.
- 2 He hates (play) cards.
- 3 She is too excited (sleep).
- 4 You must (get up) early in the morning.
- 5 I regret (spend) so much money last weekend.
- 6 They go (run) every Tuesday evening.
- 7 I saw Helen (wash) the dishes. It took her only ten minutes.
- 8 I started (learn) French two years ago.
- 9 He was very pleased (see) her again.
- 10 The dentist advised him (stop) eating sweets.

12

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct infinitive form or the -ing form.



Last weekend, Toby's parents let him (1) ...go... (go) to the funfair with his friends. When they arrived, they didn't know which ride (2) (try) first, but someone suggested (3) (start) with the ghost train. Everyone agreed that this was a very good idea. After they had finished (4) (ride) the ghost train, they moved on to the other rides. Toby admitted (5) (be) afraid on the fast roller-coaster, but he was still happy enough (6) (go) on it three times! He and his friends wanted (7) (try) all of the rides but they were too exhausted (8) (do) everything in one day. Toby suggested (9) (come) back the following weekend. Then, they all decided (10) (go) home. They all loved (11) (visit) the funfair and they are looking forward to (12) (return) this weekend.

13

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct infinitive form or the -ing form.

- A: Are you busy ...reading... (read)?
 B: Yes, but I don't mind (help) you. What do you want?
 A: Do you know the answer to this question?
 B: Yes. Look, I'll show you how (do) it yourself.
- A: I've decided (get) a part-time job.
 B: Really? What kind of job do you want (find)?
 A: Well, I really enjoy (look after) animals, so I wouldn't mind (work) in a pet shop.
- A: The police caught the man who burgled my house last month.
 B: Really? How did they manage (catch) him?
 A: I don't know, but he admitted (steal) things in our neighbourhood.
 B: Well, I'm happy (hear) that the thief was caught.

- A: Let's (go) to the ice-rink at the weekend.
 B: You know I hate (ice-skate).
 A: But you've only tried it once. Anyway, you love (roller-skate). It's the same thing.
 B: That's different.
- A: Dad, Lucy has started (have) riding lessons. Will you let me (go) riding too?
 B: Do you really want (go)?
 A: Yes, I'd (love) to.
 B: Well, I'll talk to your mother and, if she agrees, I'm sure we can (arrange) some lessons for you.
 A: Thanks Dad.
- A: Did you know that Scott is going to ask Laura (marry) him?
 B: Really? How do you know that?
 A: I saw them (look) at engagement rings in a jewellery shop.
 B: Oh, that's interesting.
- A: Are you looking forward to (go) on holiday?
 B: Yes, I'm busy (plan) my week.
 A: I suggest (visit) the museums and art galleries. They're fascinating.
 B: That's a good idea. Actually, I wanted (ask) you what the town is like before I decide what (do).

IN OTHER WORDS

Study these examples. The second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- Jerry was so short that he couldn't reach the top shelf.
too Jerry was **too short to reach** the top shelf.
- Fiona is too young to go out at night.
old Fiona isn't **old enough to go** out at night.
- Driving fast is dangerous.
drive It is **dangerous to drive** fast.

14

Complete each sentence with two to five words including the word in bold.

- Alec is too short to be a basketball player.
tall Alec isn't ...**tall enough to be**... a basketball player.
- Exercising regularly is good for you.
exercise It is good regularly.
- Mary was so late that she didn't catch the bus.
too Mary was the bus.
- This book is too boring for me to read.
enough This book isn't read.