

Be to + infinitive; be about to + infinitive

A

Be to + infinitive is commonly used in news reports to talk about events that are likely to happen in the near future:

- Police officers **are to visit** every home in the area.
- The main Rome-to-Naples railway line **is to be reopened** today. (passive form)

It is also used to talk about formal or official arrangements, formal instructions, and to give orders:

- You **are not to leave** the school without my permission.
- The European Parliament **is to introduce** a new law on safety at work.
- Children **are not to be left** unsupervised in the museum. (passive form)

Passive forms are often used to make orders and instructions more impersonal.

Note that we only use **be to + infinitive** to talk about future events that can be controlled by people. Compare:

- In the next few years, thousands of speed cameras **are to appear** on major roads. (or ... **will appear** ...) and
- Scientists say they can't predict when or where the disease **will appear** again. (not ... the disease **is to appear** again; the appearance of the disease can't be controlled)
- The President **is to return** to Brazil later today. (or ... **will return** ...) and
- The comet **will return** to our solar system in around 500 years. (not The comet **is to return** ...; the movement of the comet can't be controlled)

However, when **be to + infinitive** refers to the future from the past (see Unit 14B), we often use it to describe what happened to someone, whether they were able to influence events or not:

- Matthew Flinders sailed past Tasmania in 1770, but it **was to be** a further 30 years before he landed there.
- Clare Atkins **was to write** two more books about her experiences in Africa before her death in 1997.

B

We often use **be to + infinitive** in **if-clauses** to say that something must happen first (in the main clause) before something else can happen (in the **if-clause**):

- If the human race **is to survive**, we must look at environmental problems now.
- The law needs to be revised if justice **is to be done**. (passive form)

Compare the use of **be to + infinitive** and the present simple for the future in **if-clauses**:

- If Lopez **is to win** gold at the next Olympics, he needs to work on his fitness. and
- If Lopez **wins** gold at the next Olympics, he has said that he will retire from athletics.

Note how the order of cause and effects in **if-sentences** is reversed with these two tenses:

- If Lopez **is to win** gold ... (= effect), he needs to work ... (= cause) and
- If Lopez **wins** gold ... (= cause), he has said that he will retire ... (= effect)

C

We use **be about to + infinitive** mainly in conversation to say that something will (not) happen in the very near future:

- We're **about to eat**. Do you want to join us?
- Appearing on TV might make her famous, but it's **not about to make** her rich.
- A: Why don't you switch it off and turn it back on again?
B: Yes, I **was about to try** that when you came in.
(not Yes, I was to try ...) (referring to the future from the past)



Exercises

12.1 Complete these news extracts using the verbs in brackets. Use **be to + infinitive** if possible and **will + infinitive** if not. Use active or passive forms as necessary. **A**

- 1 Jon Stoboard has written his first new play for 15 years. Its first performance (*stage*) at the New Victoria Theatre.
- 2 The new safety system (*stop*) trains automatically if they pass a danger signal.
- 3 Stafford Boys' School (*merge*) with the nearby Bicton Girls' School to form a new co-educational establishment.
- 4 There are fears that sea levels (*rise*) catastrophically in the next 50 years.
- 5 The old design and technology programme (*replace*) with a new computer science course.

Now use the verbs in the box to do the same in 6 to 10.

become create increase receive retire succeed

- 6 Managing Director Lars Lindberg, 59, this summer a year early. He by Christina Fontana, who joined the company last year.
- 7 As the temperatures fall with the onset of winter, the refugee crisis more severe.
- 8 Production line staff at the Heathcote garden furniture factory in Northam a pay rise following a big new order from Italy.
- 9 Seventy new posts at the factory following a major investment by the parent company in the United States.
- 10 The recent rapid rise in house prices in the south-east the demand for higher salaries among lower-paid workers.

12.2 Underline the correct answers. In some cases both alternatives are possible. **B & C**

- 1 You need to work much harder if you *have / are to have* any chance of passing the exam.
- 2 My sister *is to start / is about to start* a PhD in Physics.
- 3 Mrs Patel is likely to become the Foreign Minister if the party *wins / is to win* power at the next election.
- 4 If you *enjoy / are to enjoy* romantic comedies, then this is a film you must see.
- 5 A: Can you type this letter for me?
B: Sorry, I'm *just to go / 'm just about to go* home. It'll have to wait until tomorrow.
- 6 If Beckman *recovers / is to recover* from a foot injury, it seems certain that he will play in Saturday's match against Spain.
- 7 If the university *keeps / is to keep* its international reputation, it must first invest in better facilities for students.
- 8 Jonas Fischer has denied that he *is to resign / is about to resign* as marketing manager.
- 9 It started snowing an hour ago, and from the look of those clouds things *are to get / are about to get* a lot worse.
- 10 If the railway system *is improved / is to be improved*, the government should invest substantial amounts of money now.



A Active patterns with verb + -ing

Verbs followed by **object + -ing** in the active are made passive with 'be' + past participle + -ing:

- They **saw the monkey climbing** over the fence. (= active)
- The monkey was seen climbing** over the fence. (= passive)

Also: bring, catch, hear, find, keep, notice, observe, send, show

B

Some verbs that can be followed by an **-ing** form can be used with a passive form **being + past participle**:

- I really **love being given** presents.
- The children **enjoyed being taken** to the zoo.

Also: avoid, deny, describe, dislike, face, hate, (not) imagine, like, remember, report, resent

C

Verbs which in the active are followed by an object consisting of a noun phrase and **-ing clause** usually have no passive:

- I dread **him (or his) finding out**.
(but not He is dreaded finding out)

Also: anticipate, appreciate, dislike, forget, hate, imagine, like, (not) mind, recall, remember

D

Active patterns with verb + to-infinitive

The active pattern **verb + object + to-infinitive** is made passive with 'be' + past participle + **to-infinitive**. Compare:

- Mr Wang **has taught Peter to sing** for years. and
- Peter **has been taught to sing** (by Mr Wang) for years.

Also: advise, allow, ask, believe, consider, expect, feel, instruct, mean, order, require, tell, understand

Note that in some contexts it is possible to make both verbs passive:

- Changes to the taxation system **are expected to be proposed**. (compare the active We **expect** the government **to propose** changes to the taxation system.)

Some verbs followed by an **object + to-infinitive** in the active have no passive:

- Susan **liked Karl to be** there. (but not Karl was liked to be there.)

Also: (can't) bear, hate, love, need, prefer, want, wish (= 'liking' and 'wanting' verbs)

E

The active pattern **verb + to-infinitive + object** is made passive with **verb + to be + past participle**.

Compare:

- Supermarkets **started to sell fresh pasta** only in the 1990s. and
- Fresh pasta **started to be sold** by supermarkets only in the 1990s.

Also: (i) appear, begin, come, continue, seem, tend;
(ii) agree, aim, arrange, attempt, hope, refuse, want

The verbs in group (i) (and **start**) have corresponding meanings in active and passive sentences, but the verbs in group (ii) do not. Compare:

- People have come to see organic food as something only the wealthy eat. (active) corresponds to
- Organic food has come to be seen as something only the wealthy eat. (passive)
- Petra wanted to help me. (active) does not correspond to
- I wanted to be helped by Petra. (passive)

Exercises

- 23.1** Complete each sentence using one pair of verbs from the box. Use either was / were + past participle + -ing or past simple + being + past participle. **A & B**

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| avoid – take | deny – involve | face – expel | find – wander | keep – wait |
| leave – hold | observe – hide | remember – bite | resent – give | send – tumble |

- 1 Inger ... was kept waiting ... for over three hours when she went for her dental appointment.
- 2 When the police first questioned him, Wayne in the robbery.
- 3 I the baby while Karen went to answer the door.
- 4 When I woke up in hospital, I by the snake but nothing after that.
- 5 They prisoner by pretending to be dead.
- 6 The man a suspicious package under a seat in the train.
- 7 When the bike hit her, Ana to the ground.
- 8 Two teenagers yesterday from school after they were found with over a hundred stolen mobile phones.
- 9 The man was taken to hospital when he lost and alone in the forest.
- 10 Tarik had worked in the company for 30 years and he rather orders by people who had been there only weeks.

- 23.2** Rewrite the sentences using one pair of words from the box. Use passive forms with past participle + -ing, past participle + to-infinitive, or past simple + being + past participle. **A–D**

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| ask – show – | catch – shoplifting | expect – attract | hear – argue |
| hate – tease | mind – criticise | observe – enter | require – complete |

- 1 They wanted us to show our passports at the border.
We were asked to show our passports at the border.
- 2 They could hear Emil and Laura shouting at each other next door.
Emil and Laura
- 3 The other children made Ollie unhappy when they teased him.
Ollie
- 4 They saw the burglar getting into the museum through a window.
The burglar
- 5 They think that over 20,000 people will go to the pop concert.
The pop concert
- 6 They criticised her but she wasn't unhappy about it.
She
- 7 They said I had to fill in two copies of the customs declaration.
I
- 8 They caught Mrs Dee taking things from the shop.
Mrs Dee

- 23.3** Make passive sentences beginning with the italicised word(s). **E**

- 1 Kay's questions began to irritate Marco.
Marco began to be irritated by Kay's questions. (corresponding meaning)
- 2 The team captain hopes to select Omar.
- 3 Alastair arranged to take Kathy to the station.
- 4 Critics have come to recognise Galdos as one of Spain's greatest novelists.
- 5 The south coast continues to attract holidaymakers.
- 6 Harris has agreed to interview the Finance Minister.

Do the sentences you have written have a corresponding meaning to the original, or a different meaning? Look carefully at the tense in the sentences given.

Verb + -ing forms and infinitives 1

A

Some verbs can be followed either by an **object + -ing** or a **possessive + -ing** with a similar meaning, although the **possessive + -ing** form is usually considered to be rather formal:

Reminder → F4–F13

- I resented **Tom** winning the prize.
(*more formally* I resented **Tom's** winning the prize.)
- Mia recalled **him** buying the book.
(*more formally* Mia recalled **his** buying the book.)

Also: **detest, (dis)approve of, (dis)like, hate, love, object to** (= '(dis)liking' verbs); **forget, imagine, remember, think of** (= 'thinking' verbs)

Note that we only use a possessive form (**Tom's, his**) here to talk about a person or group of people:

- I remember **the horse** winning the race. (*but not ... the horse's winning ...*)

B

Some verbs can be followed by **to + -ing** where **to** is a preposition:

- She **confessed to** *stealing* the money.
- You **don't object to** *working* late tonight, do you?

Also: **adapt, adjust, admit, look forward, own up, resort**

Note that these verbs can also be followed by **to + noun phrase**:

- She **confessed to** *the crime*.
- You **don't object to** *the work*, do you?

C

Other verbs can be followed by different prepositions + **-ing**. For example:

- ★ **by + -ing** (**begin, close, end, finish (off / up), open, start (off / out)**)
 - Can you **begin by** *cleaning* the floors, and then do the windows?
- ★ **on + -ing** or **on + object + -ing** (**concentrate, count, depend, focus, insist, rely**)
 - Clare **insisted on** (**Jack**) *wearing* a suit to the party.
- ★ **of + -ing** or **of + object + -ing** (**approve, hear, know, speak, talk, tell**)
 - Have you ever **heard of** (**anyone**) *getting arrested* for gossiping before?
- ★ **object + from + -ing** (**deter, discourage, keep, prevent, prohibit, stop**)
 - The noise from next door **prevented me from** *sleeping*.

D

Some verbs (**feel, hear, notice, observe, overhear, see, watch**) can be followed by an object and then either by an **-ing** form or **bare infinitive**, but the meanings may be slightly different. Compare:

- I **saw them playing** football from my window. (**-ing** indicates an action in progress) *and*
- I **saw him smash** the bottle. (**bare infinitive** indicates a completed action)
- I was able to **watch them building** the new car park from my office window. (**-ing** suggests that I watched, but not from start to finish) *and*
- I **watched him climb** through the window, and then I called the police. (**bare infinitive** suggests I watched the whole action from start to finish)

E

After the verbs **dare** and **help** we can use either a **bare infinitive** or **to-infinitive**:

- I was angry with him, but I **didn't dare** (**to**) say anything.
- We hope the Twitter campaign will **help** (**to**) *raise awareness* of the problem.

When **dare** has an object, we can only use a **to-infinitive**. Compare:

- I **dared him to cross** the river. (*not I dared him cross ...*) *and*
- I **helped them (to) pack**.

After **have, let** and **make** we can use an **object + bare infinitive** but not **to-infinitive**:

- His exam results might **make him work** harder. (*not ... might make him to work ...*)
- I **had Irena clean** up her bedroom before I **let her go** out to play.

Exercises

30.1 If possible, rewrite these sentences using the possessive form of the object. If not, write X. **A**

- 1 I really hate you having to be away from home so much.
I really hate your having to be away from home so much.
- 2 We don't approve of the developer locating the factory so close to houses.
- 3 I have always detested the dog jumping up at me when I visit them.
- 4 No one heard the man shouting for help.
- 5 It is difficult to imagine him accepting the decision without any objection.
- 6 No one in the crowd that day will forget Ashe fighting so hard to win the match.
- 7 I remember them arguing a great deal when they were children.
- 8 The police investigated him stealing cars from the city centre.

30.2 Rewrite the italicised part of each sentence so that it has a similar meaning. Use one of the verbs from the box and an -ing form. **B & C**

adapt approve discourage end own up rely

- 1 In a survey, 65% of dentists *said that they had made* mistakes in treating patients.
owned up to making
- 2 I don't *think children should wear* jewellery in school.
- 3 I would like to *finish with a summary* of the main points of my talk.
- 4 My parents *said they thought I shouldn't go* to university.
- 5 You can't trust Sophie to *turn up* on time.
- 6 I grew up in the countryside, and I found it difficult to *get used to life* in a big city.

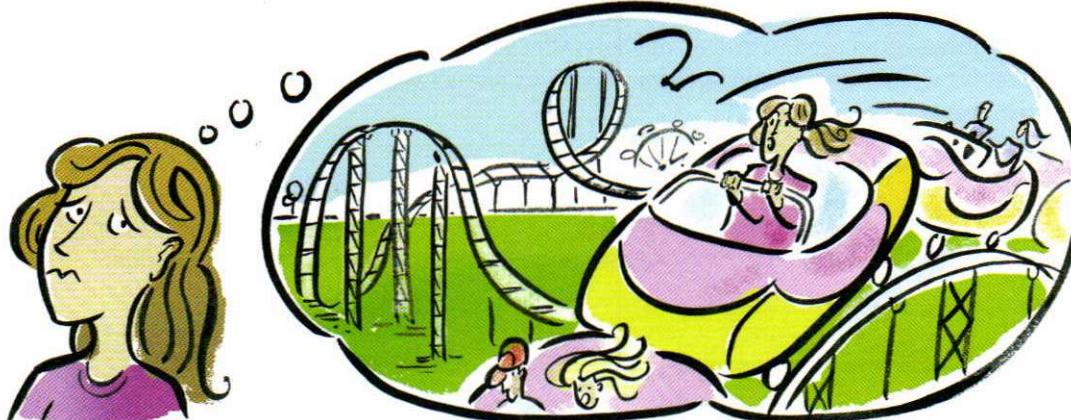
30.3 Underline the most likely verb form. Consider why it is the most likely. **A**

- 1 I heard the tyre *burst / bursting* and then the lorry skidded across the road.
- 2 Carl noticed someone *watch / watching* him from an upstairs window.
- 3 She felt the wasp *sting / stinging* her just before she brushed it off her arm.
- 4 With a good telescope you can see the eagles *feed / feeding* their chicks in the nest.

30.4 Match the sentence beginnings and endings, adding an appropriate object where necessary and write **(to)** where this might be included. **E**

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 When Lana thought of going on the roller-coaster it made ... | a prevent hay fever. |
| 2 The new course is intended to help ... | b feel quite ill. |
| 3 Scientists hope the new drug will help ... | c control the speed of the fan. |
| 4 We didn't agree with the decision, but we didn't dare ... | d wait outside my office. |
| 5 When Ethan arrives, have ... | e understand modern art. |
| 6 The dial on the left lets ... | f protest against it. |

1 + b When Lana thought of going on the roller-coaster it made her feel quite ill.



Verb + -ing forms and infinitives 2

A

After some verbs we need to include an object before a **to-infinitive** in active sentences:

- The police **warned** everyone **to stay** inside with their windows closed. (*not* The police warned to stay ...)

Reminder → F4–F13

Also: advise, allow, believe, cause, command, enable, encourage, entitle, force, invite, order, persuade, remind, show, teach, tell

After other verbs, however, we can't include an object before a **to-infinitive**:

- We've **decided** **to leave** early.
(*not* We've decided us to leave early.)

Also: agree, consent, fail, hope, manage, offer, pretend, refuse, start, threaten, volunteer

B

After some verbs we have to put a preposition, usually **for**, immediately after the verb before an **object + to-infinitive** (see also Unit 29):

- They **arranged** **for** Rania **to stay** in London.
(*not* They arranged Rania to stay ...)
- They **applied** **for** the court appearance **to be postponed**.

Also: advertise, campaign, long, plan, wait (After **apply** and **campaign**, the **to-infinitive** is usually passive.)

Other verbs can be followed by different prepositions + **object + to-infinitive**. For example:

- ★ **at + object + to-infinitive** (go on [= to criticise continually], keep on [= to talk about something many times], scream, shout, yell)
 - I shouted **at** the man **to open** the door.
- ★ **on + object + to-infinitive** (call [= to officially ask someone to do something], count, depend, prevail, rely)
 - We're depending **on** you **to find** a solution soon.
- ★ **to + object + to-infinitive** (appeal, gesture, motion, signal)
 - He closed the door and **signalled** **to** the pilot **to take off**.

C

A number of other **to-infinitive** and **-ing** forms can also follow verbs –

- ★ **verb + negative to-infinitive and negative -ing forms**
 - We **decided not to go** to Paris after all. (compare The people **didn't decide to go** to war, it was their political leaders.)
 - Some of my friends **have considered not going** to college because of the cost. (compare I **haven't considered going** to college – I don't want to go on studying after school.)
- ★ **verb + to have + past participle**
 - The accident **seems to have happened** at around 1 pm yesterday.
 - Simmons **is alleged to have assaulted** a police officer.

This form is often used to give an opinion (after verbs like **seem** and **appear**) about a past event, or to report what is or was said (after passive verbs like **is / was alleged**, **believed**, **said**, **thought**) about past events.

★ **verb + having + past participle**

The **verb + -ing** and **verb + having + past participle** forms have a similar meaning with these verbs:

- I now **regret buying** the car. and I now **regret having bought** the car.

This form is most often used with **admit**, **deny**, **forget**, **recall**, **regret** and **remember**.

Exercises

31.1 Complete each sentence with one of the verbs in brackets. **A**

- 1 a My mother me to throw away my old toys. (*threatened / told*)
 b My mother to throw away my old toys.
- 2 a They to visit Riko in hospital. (*allowed / offered*)
 b They us to visit Riko in hospital.
- 3 a I to carry the heavy boxes up the stairs. (*managed / persuaded*)
 b I Hamza to carry the heavy boxes up the stairs.
- 4 a She Lars to help in the garden. (*agreed / encouraged*)
 b She to help in the garden.
- 5 a I her to tidy up the house. (*pretended / reminded*)
 b I to tidy up the house.
- 6 a Jonas to study economics at university. (*advised / hoped*)
 b Jonas me to study economics at university.

31.2 Write one word that is missing from each line in these texts. Put a **X** where the word should be. **B**

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| a | 1 When I advertised X a website designer for the business, Greta got 2 the job. But I've now learnt that you can't rely Greta to do anything. 3 I waited ages X her to come up with some initial ideas for the site, and 4 then I had to keep on her to do any more work on it. Finally, she said she couldn't do it after all. | for |
| b | 1 Managers of the National Electricity Company have appealed workers 2 to end their strike, and have called the government to intervene in the 3 dispute. The Energy Minister said that he has arranged employers and 4 employees to meet next week, and he prevailed strikers to return to work in the meantime. | |

31.3 Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets using one of the patterns in section C opposite. Give alternatives where possible. **C**

- 1 I anyone Marta's new address. (*agree – not tell*)
 2 The prisoners through a broken window last night. (*think – escape*)
 3 I him at the conference. (*not recall – see*)
 4 He any stolen property. (*deny – receive*)
 5 He as the person who donated the money. (*ask – not name*)
 6 She all the way back home. (*not feel like – walk*)
 7 I am sure my purse was on the table a few minutes ago, but now it (*seem – disappear*)
 8 The Etruscans in Italy in the 8th or 9th century BC. (*believe – arrive*)



Leaving out **to-infinitives****A**

We can sometimes use **to** instead of a clause beginning with a **to-infinitive** when it is clear from the context what we are talking about:

- I wanted to come with you, but I won't be able **to**. (*instead of ... to come with you.*)
- It might have been better if Rosa had asked for my help, but she chose **not to**. (*instead of ... chose not to ask for my help.*)

However, when we use the verb **be** in the previous sentence or clause the **to-infinitive** form of **be** is repeated in the next clause or sentence:

- Leon **was** frightened – or maybe he just pretended **to be**. (*not ... just pretended to.*)

B

After most nouns and adjectives that can be followed by a **to-infinitive clause**, we can leave out the **to-infinitive clause** or use **to**:

- I'm not going to write another book – at least I don't have any **plans (to)**. (*or ... plans to write another book.*)
- 'Could you and Tom help me move house?' 'Well, I'm **willing (to)**, and I'll ask Tom.'

Also: chance, idea, opportunity, promise, suggestion; afraid, delighted, determined

We can also leave out a **to-infinitive** or use **to** with some verbs:

- Alex will collect us by 10 o'clock. He **promised (to)**.
- 'You were supposed to buy some sugar.' 'Sorry, I **forgot (to)**.'

Also: agree, ask, begin, refuse, start, try

After verbs which must have a complement (i.e. a phrase which completes the meaning of the verb) we can't leave out **to**:

- I admit that I took her watch, but I didn't **mean to**.
- Have you thought about getting vaccinated against cholera before going there? I'd certainly **advise you to**.

Also: afford, be able, choose, deserve, expect, fail, hate, hope, intend, love, need, prefer

C

After **want** and **would like** in **if-clauses** and **wh-clauses** we can often leave out a **to-infinitive** or use **to**:

- You're welcome to dance *if you'd like (to)*.
- You can do whatever you **would like (to)**.
- Call me Ben *if you want (to)*.
- Come and see us *when you want (to)*.

In other clauses (not **if-** and **wh-clauses**) we include **to**:

- I was planning to see you tomorrow, and I **would still like to**.
- I offered to clean your car because I really **want to**, not because I hope to be paid.

In **if-clauses** and **wh-clauses** we usually leave out **to** after **like**. Compare:

- You can have one *if you like*. *and You can have one if you'd like (to)*.
- Leave whenever you **like**. *and Leave whenever you'd like (to)*.

However, we include **to** with negative forms of **want**, **would like**, and **like**, including in **if-clauses** and **wh-clauses**:

- 'Shall we go and visit Laura?' 'I **don't** really **want to**'
- I should have phoned Jo last night, but it was so late when I got home I **didn't like to**.
- 'He won't mind you asking him for a loan.' 'Oh, no, I **wouldn't like to**'

Exercises

65.1 Rewrite the italicised part of each sentence so that it has a similar meaning. Use a verb from the box (use each verb twice) followed by **to** or **to be**. **A**

claimed expected pretended used

- 1 Was she really as good at tennis as she *said she was*? *claimed to be*
- 2 She occupies a much less important role in the company than she *did before*.
.....
- 3 Lucia was frightened – or maybe she just *acted as if she was*.
.....
- 4 Dan has lost a lot of weight. He's much thinner than he *was before*.
.....
- 5 The last government didn't represent the majority of people, although it *said that it did*.
.....
- 6 My family enjoyed my singing, or at least they *made believe that they did*.
.....
- 7 The Pantheon in Rome wasn't anything like I *imagined it*.
.....
- 8 I didn't get an interview for the job although I *thought that I would*.
.....

65.2 Complete the sentences. Write **to** if it is necessary; write **(to)** if it can be included or omitted. **B**

- 1 I've always wanted to go white-water rafting, but I've never had the opportunity before.
- 2 Luka had to admit that he'd failed, even though he obviously hated
- 3 When the police officer told the crowd to leave the square they refused
- 4 I don't have to walk to work. I do it because I choose
- 5 We didn't want Alina to leave college, but she was determined
- 6 Spain won 3–0, and deserved, after a fine performance.
- 7 A: Shall we ask Dad before we borrow the car? B: Yes, it might be a good idea
- 8 A: Would you present the prizes for the competition? B: I'd be delighted
- 9 A: Would you like to travel first class? B: Well, yes, I'd certainly prefer
- 10 I was hoping to go to Russia this year, but I can't afford

65.3 If necessary, correct B's responses. If they are already correct, write **✓**. **C**

- 1 A: Can I have a biscuit? B: Take more than one if you like to.
- 2 A: When shall we start playing the music? B: Whenever you'd like.
- 3 A: Will Sara be able to play? B: I asked her, but she says she doesn't want.
- 4 A: I can't come out tonight, I'm seeing Emma. B: She can join us, if she'd like to.
- 5 A: Where are you going to in Norway? B: I haven't decided yet. I'll just go where I want.
- 6 A: I don't think I'll go after all. B: That's okay. You don't have to if you don't want.
- 7 A: Can the children come too? B: Yes, of course, if they want.
- 8 A: Shall we go out walking tomorrow? B: Yes, I'd like very much.
- 9 A: Could I ask you a personal question? B: Of course. Ask anything you like to.
- 10 A: Did you ask Dr Mori to help you? B: No, he was very busy, so I didn't like.



Adjective + to-infinitive, -ing, that-clause, wh-clause

A

When an adjective comes after a linking verb (e.g. **appear**, **be**, **become**, **seem**; see [Unit 21](#)) we can use a number of patterns after the adjective including a **to-infinitive**, **-ing**, **that-clause**, and **wh-clause**. (For **It + linking verb + adjective**, see **B**.)

| | adjective + | example adjectives used in this pattern |
|-----|---|--|
| i | to-infinitive <input type="checkbox"/> You're free <i>to leave</i> at any time you want. | (un)able, careful, crazy, curious, difficult, easy, foolish, free, good, hard, impossible, inclined, mad, nice, prepared, ready, stupid, welcome, willing |
| ii | -ing <input type="checkbox"/> He was busy <i>doing</i> his homework. | busy, crazy, foolish, mad, stupid; (after the verb feel) awful, awkward, bad, good, guilty, terrible |
| iii | that-clause <input type="checkbox"/> He became worried (that) she might fall down. | afraid, alarmed, amazed, angry, annoyed, ashamed, astonished, aware, concerned, disappointed, glad, (un)happy, pleased, shocked, sorry, upset, worried; certain, confident, positive, sure |
| iv | wh-clause <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not certain (of / about) why he wants to borrow the money | afraid, not aware / unaware, not certain / uncertain, doubtful, not sure / unsure, worried |
| v | to-infinitive or that-clause <input type="checkbox"/> She was afraid <i>to say</i> anything. <input type="checkbox"/> I was afraid <i>that</i> I would be late. | the adjectives in (iii) above, except aware , confident and positive |
| vi | to-infinitive or -ing <input type="checkbox"/> He'd be stupid <i>to leave</i> now. <input type="checkbox"/> He'd be stupid <i>giving up</i> the job. | crazy, foolish, mad, stupid |
| vii | -ing or that-clause <input type="checkbox"/> She felt awful <i>leaving</i> him with all the clearing up. <input type="checkbox"/> She felt awful <i>that</i> she was late. | (after the verb feel) awful, awkward, bad, good, guilty, terrible |

B

It + linking verb + adjective

We can sometimes use **it + linking verb + adjective + to-infinitive** as an alternative to **subject + linking verb + adjective + to-infinitive** (see also [Units 96 and 97](#)):

- The fireworks were **amazing** *to watch*. or
- It was amazing** *to watch* the fireworks.

Also: annoying, awkward, easy, good, interesting, lovely, simple, terrific, wonderful

In informal speech we can use an **-ing** form instead of a **to-infinitive**:

- It is easy** *understanding* her.
- It was amazing** *watching* the fireworks.

We can use a similar pattern with **adjective + wh- or that-clause** (see [Unit 96A](#)):

- It is not **clear** *why* he did it.
- It was **odd** *that* she left so suddenly.

After certain adjectives we often include **of + subject** between the adjective and a **to-infinitive**:

- It was rude (**of them**) *to criticise* her. or
- They were rude *to criticise* her.

Also: brave, generous, kind, mean, thoughtful, unprofessional, unreasonable

When we talk about how somebody reacts to a situation we can use **it + make** with an adjective and **to-infinitive**, **-ing** or **that-clause**:

- It made me angry** (*to discover*) *that* so much money was wasted. (or **It made me angry** *discovering* that ... or I was angry *to discover* that ...)

Also: ashamed, furious, glad, happy, miserable, nervous, sad, tired, uncomfortable

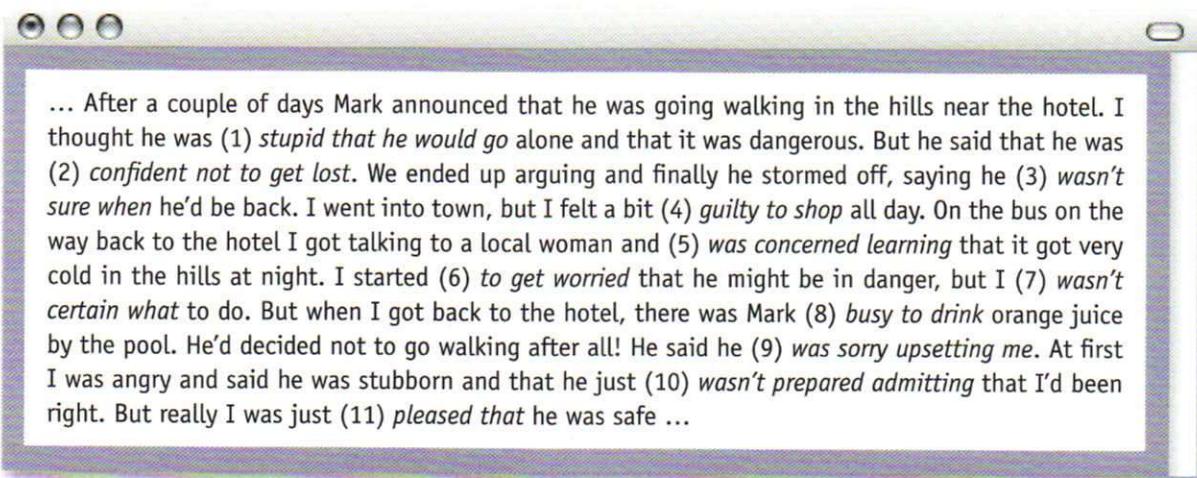
Exercises

- 70.1** Complete the sentences with a **to-infinitive** or an **-ing** form of the verbs in the box.
Give alternatives where possible. **A**

cheat know leave open panic reduce
resign talk turn underestimate

- 1 I'm afraid I can't afford that much. Would you be prepared the price if I pay cash?
- 2 Kenzo was stupid in the exam. He was bound to get caught.
- 3 He felt good that he had helped solve the problem.
- 4 Don't feel that you need to stay to the very end. You're free at any time.
- 5 Anyone trying to climb the mountain would be foolish the challenge facing them.
- 6 People said I was crazy a shop in the village, but it's been a success so far.
- 7 She was too busy on the phone to notice that Roya had come into the room.
- 8 It's so difficult to get a job at the moment you'd be mad
- 9 Some people would be inclined if they smelt smoke in the house.
- 10 I felt awful people away from the concert, but there just wasn't any more room.

- 70.2** Correct any mistakes in the italicised parts of this email about a holiday in Thailand. **A**



- 70.3** Rewrite these sentences using **It + be + adjective**. If possible, use **of + a personal pronoun** after the adjective. **B**

- 1 She was brave to spend the night in the old house alone. It was brave of her to spend the night in the old house alone.
- 2 Such a magnificent performance was wonderful to hear.
- 3 You were mean to eat all the cake and not leave any for me.
- 4 They were unreasonable to complain about the exam results.
- 5 The top of the jar was awkward to get off.
- 6 The shelves were simple to put up.
- 7 He was unprofessional to criticise the headteacher in front of the staff.
- 8 You were kind to give birthday presents to the children.

- 70.4** Complete these sentences with **It made me + any appropriate adjective**. **B**

- 1 It made me angry to hear how she had been insulted.
- 2 listening to his lies.
- 3 that we wouldn't be working together again.
- 4 to learn how badly we treated immigrants in the 1950s.
- 5 hearing the dentist's drill as I sat in the waiting room.

Purposes and results: **in order to, so as to, etc.****A****In order / so as + to-infinitive**

To talk about the purpose of an action we can use **in order / so as + to-infinitive**:

- He took the course **in order to get** a better job.
- Trees are being planted by the roadside **so as to reduce** traffic noise.

In spoken English in particular it is much more common simply to use a **to-infinitive** without 'in order' or 'so as' to express the same meaning:

- He took the course **to get** a better job.

We rarely use just **not + to-infinitive**, but instead use **so as not to** or **in order not to**:

- He kept the speech vague **in order not to commit** himself to one side or the other.
(*not ... vague not to commit himself ...*)
- I wrote down her name **so as not to forget** it. (*not ... name not to forget ...*)

However, in contrastive sentences we can use **not + to-infinitive, but + to-infinitive** as in:

- I came to see you **not (in order / so as) to complain, but (in order / so as) to apologise**.

Note that we can put **in order / so as** before the **to-infinitives** in sentences like this.

B**In order that and so that**

We also use **in order that** and **so that** to talk about a purpose. Compare:

- She stayed at work late **in order / so as** to complete the report. *and*
- She stayed at work late **in order that / so that** she could complete the report. (*not ... in order that / so that to complete the report.*)

So that is more common than **in order that**, and is used in less formal situations. Note that informally we can leave out **that** after **so**, but we always include it after **in order**.

A present tense verb in the main clause is usually followed by a present tense verb (or a modal with present or future reference – **can, will**, etc.) in the clause beginning **in order that / so that**. A past tense verb in the main clause is usually followed by a past tense verb (or a modal with past reference – **could, would**, etc.) in the clause beginning **in order that / so that**. Modal verbs are very often used after **in order that / so that**:

- Regular checks *are made in order that* safety standards *are maintained*.
- Advice *is given in order that* students *can choose the best course*.
- Did you give up your job **so that** you **could** take care of your mother?
- I hid the presents **so that** Marianna **wouldn't** find them.

C**Such that and in such a way that / as to; such ... that**

In formal contexts, such as academic writing, we can use **such that** to introduce a result:

- The model was designed **such that** the value of x could be calculated. (= 'in a way that has the result that ...'; or ... **in order that ...; or ... so that ...**)

Less formally we can also use **in such a way that** or **in such a way as + to-infinitive** with a similar meaning:

- The advertisement is printed **in such a way that** two very different pictures can be seen depending on how you look at it.
- Our business is managed **in such a way as to minimise** its environmental impact.

We can also use **such + noun phrase + that** to introduce a result:

- It is **such a popular play that** all the performances were sold out after the first day.
(For **so + adjective / adverb + that**, see **Unit 73**.)

Exercises

81.1 Combine the two sentences in the most appropriate way using **in order (not) + to-infinitive** or **so as (not) + to-infinitive**. **A**

- 1 I had to borrow money from the bank.
 - 2 He packed his suitcase with the books at the bottom.
 - 3 Bus fares in the city were being cut.
 - 4 We crept quietly towards the deer.
 - 5 I walked around the outside of the field.
 - 6 We put up a fence.
 - 7 She looked down at the book in front of her.
 - 8 The roadworks were carried out at night.
- a This was done to encourage people to use public transport.
 - b We wanted to prevent people walking across the grass.
 - c I didn't want to damage the growing crops.
 - d ~~I did this to set up the business.~~
 - e They didn't want to disrupt traffic too much.
 - f We didn't want to frighten them away.
 - g She wanted to avoid his gaze.
 - h He didn't want to crush his clothes.

1 + d I had to borrow money from the bank in order to set up the business.
 (or so as to set up)

81.2 Look again at the sentences you wrote in 81.1. Is it also possible to use only a **to-infinitive**, without **in order** or **so as**? Write **✓** or **X**. **A**

1 I had to borrow money from the bank to set up the business. ✓

81.3 Complete the sentences with the correct versions of the phrases from the box. **B**

it will / would receive the new channels

it won't / wouldn't take up a lot of computer memory

mosquitoes can't / couldn't get in nobody will / would know it was there

people can / could walk around the gardens we can / could see the view over the city

- 1 They have an open day at their house each year so that people can walk around the gardens.
- 2 I put a rug over the stain on the carpet so that
- 3 There were screens on all the windows so that
- 4 The software is designed so that
- 5 We went up to the top floor so that
- 6 The TV needs to be retuned so that

81.4 Rewrite each sentence less formally in two ways; once using **in such a way that** and once using **in such a way as to**. **C**

- 1 The factory demolition was planned such that any risk to the public was avoided.

The factory demolition was planned in such a way that any risk to the public was avoided. / The factory demolition was planned in such a way as to avoid any risk to the public.



- 2 The meeting room is designed such that everyone's voice can be heard without the use of microphones.
- 3 The website is organised such that it is easy to navigate.
- 4 If the dial is rotated such that the number 1 is at the top, the valve opens.