Gerund or infinitive?

to express purpose

I'll call her to tell her what happened.

We're going to the market to buy some food.

after certain adjectives

I'm glad to know you passed the test. I'm so sorry to hear that.

after it + be + adjective (+ noun/pronoun)

It's fantastic to be here.

It was so nice of her to say that.

after nouns that come from verbs with to infintive

Nobody liked the decision to increase taxes. He followed his: father's advice to stay calm.

after would like, would love, would hate, would prefer

I'd love to see the views from the top.
I'd prefer to arrive a bit earlier than usual.

in certain expressions (to be honest, to tell you the truth, to begin with, etc.)

To be honest, I didn't want to go to the conference.

We hated the trip. To begin with, the hotel was dirty and the food awful.

after expressions with quantifiers (enough, too, too much, a lot, etc.)

You are too young to be here. He isn't old enough to vote. There's a lot to do before we can go.

Cheating is very widespread in colleges today. Eating candy isn't the best for your teeth.

after a preposition

as a noun (subject)

I'm tired of waiting for you. He's very good at listening to people.

In the expressions it's no use, it's no good, it's (not) worth, there's no point (in), there's no use (in), can't help, have difficulty (in), have trouble, have a hard/difficult time, etc.

It's no good trying to cover a lie with another lie. There's no point arguing. Let's just stop. We had a hard time finding our way back.

after hear, listen, notice, see, watch to express an long/incomplete action, or action in progress

I saw them kissing in the park. (=The action was long/in progress)

We use the gerund

after spend/waste + time/money

I want to spend more time playing with my kids. Don't waste your money shopping in that store.

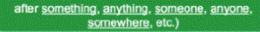
after certain verbs

admit, avoid, deny, enjoy, fancy, feel like, finish, keep (on), imagine, involve, mind, miss, practise, recommend, regret, risk, spend, suggest

We use the infinitive with to

ENGLISH VI: MENG321

Infinitives – With or without "to"?



There's nothing to do in this town.

We need someone to help us.

There isn't anywhere to go.

after question words: what, where, who, etc.

We don't know where to go. He's always telling me what to do.

after superlatives and first, second, etc.

He is the best player to ever play in Sotland. I was the first to arrive.

after certain verbs

afford, agree, appear, arrange, be able to, choose, decide, deserve, expect, happen, help, hesitate, hope, learn, make, manage, offer, plan, pretend, promise, refuse, seem, teach, tend, threaten, want.

after modal verbs (can, could, must, might, should, will, would)

He should be home by now. I might need you tomorrow

after make/let/help + object

He made them wait outside for more than an hour. They didn't let us take photographs

after had better/would rather/would sooner

You'd better not say anything. I'd rather go out another day.

We use the infinitive without

after hear, listen, notice, see, to express a short or complete action

I saw them kiss (I saw the action from start to end. It was probably a short kiss.)
I heard someone shout your name. (I heard all of

t)