



Interrogative Word and Infinitive

Grammar > Intermediate 6



Exercise 1 – Learning

The **infinitive** is the basic form of verbs. There are two types:

1. **bare infinitive** (I **climb** Mt. Everest.)
2. **to infinitive** (I want **to climb** Mt. Everest.)

This lesson is focused on '**to infinitives**'.

Why do we use Interrogative Words and Infinitives?

We use question words and infinitives to:

1. *describe the way to perform an action.*
2. *describe the object of the action.*
3. *describe the place, location or direction of the action.*
4. *describe the time or the occasion at which the action is performed.*



How do we use Interrogative Words and Infinitives?

Use '**how + to-infinitive**' when you want to describe the way to perform an action.

- I know **how to cook** spaghetti. (= the way/method to cook spaghetti)
- They know **how to drive** a car. (= the way to drive a car)

Use '**what + to-infinitive**' when you want to describe the object of the action.

- I don't know **what to do**. (= I need some advice)
- She can't decide **what to buy** for her sister's birthday. (= There are many choices, and she cannot decide on one thing)

Use '**where + to-infinitive**' when you want to describe the place, location or direction of the action.

- She didn't tell us **where to meet** her secretary. (= She didn't specify the place)

Use '**when + to-infinitive**' when you want to describe the time or the occasion at which the action is performed.

- I'm not sure **when to take** my vacation. (= I don't know what time is best)



Exercise 2 – Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with when, where, what, or how to complete the sentences.

1. This city is so expensive. I don't know _____ to live.
2. I want to marry my girlfriend, but I'm not sure _____ to propose.
3. Help me decide _____ to go on vacation.
4. I have so many ingredients, but I don't know _____ to make.
5. Do you know _____ to do if you are stung by a bee?
6. My husband and I are so busy these days. We don't know _____ to celebrate our anniversary.
7. Help! My room is infested with ants. I don't know _____ to do.
8. I want to speak better English, but I don't know _____ to do that.



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: go grocery shopping. → I don't know where to go grocery shopping.

Content:

1. walk my dog.
2. register to vote.
3. parts of town to avoid.
4. put the trash out.
5. bus to catch.
6. buy a vacuum cleaner.