

Adjective + **to ...**

A

Difficult to understand etc.

Compare sentences (a) and (b):

- ☐ James doesn't speak very clearly. { (a) **It** is difficult to understand **him**.
(b) **He** is **difficult to understand**.

Sentences (a) and (b) have the same meaning. Note that we say:

- ☐ He is difficult **to understand**. (*not* He is difficult to understand him.)

You can use the same structures with:

easy **nice** **safe** **cheap** **exciting** **impossible**
hard **good** **dangerous** **expensive** **interesting**

- ☐ Do you think it is **safe** (for us) **to drink this water**?
Do you think this water is **safe** (for us) **to drink**? (*not* to drink it)
☐ The questions in the exam were very difficult. It was **impossible to answer them**.
The questions in the exam were very difficult. They were **impossible to answer**.
(*not* to answer them)
☐ Nicola has lots of interesting ideas. It's **interesting to talk** to her.
Nicola is **interesting to talk to**. (*not* to talk to her.)

You can also use this structure with *adjective + noun*:

- ☐ This is a **difficult question** (for me) **to answer**. (*not* to answer it)

B

Nice of (you) to ...

You can say 'It's **nice of** somebody **to** do something':

- ☐ It was **nice of you to take** me to the airport. Thank you very much.

You can use many other adjectives in this way. For example:

kind **(in)considerate** **generous** **mean** **careless** **silly** **stupid** **unfair**

- ☐ It's **silly of Ruth to give** up her job when she needs the money.
☐ I think it was **unfair of him to criticise** me.

C

Sorry to ... / surprised to ... etc.

You can use *adjective + to ...* to say how somebody reacts to something:

- ☐ I'm **sorry to hear** that your mother isn't well.

You can use many other adjectives in this way. For example:

glad **pleased** **relieved** **surprised** **amazed** **sad** **disappointed**

- ☐ Was Julia **surprised to see** you?
☐ It was a long and tiring journey. We were **glad to get** home.

D

The first / the next (etc.) + to ...

You can use **to ...** after **the first/second/third** etc., and also after **the last / the next / the only ...**:

- ☐ If I have any more news, you will be **the first** (person) **to know**.
☐ **The next** train **to arrive** at platform 4 will be the 10.50 to Liverpool.
☐ Everybody was late except me. I was **the only** one **to arrive** on time.

E

You can say that something is **sure/certain/likely/bound to** happen:

- ☐ Carla is a very good student. She's **bound to pass** the exam. (= she is sure to pass)
☐ I'm **likely to get** home late tonight. (= I will probably get home late)