

LANGUAGE FOCUS

THE INFINITIVE

	Forms of the Infinitive	
	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Simple	(to) repair	(to) be repaired
Continuous	(to) be repairing	—
Perfect	(to) have repaired	(to) have been repaired
Perfect Continuous	(to) have been repairing	—

The **Simple Infinitive** refers to the present or future action.

*I know him **to be** a good programmer. I'd like **to update** my antivirus.*

The **Continuous Infinitive** expresses an action happening now. *He must **be fixing** a network connection now.*

The **Perfect Infinitive** shows that the action of the Infinitive happened before the action of the verb.

*When was the data backed up? It appears **to have been backed up** to the company's mainframe during the night.*

The **Perfect Continuous Infinitive** is used to put emphasis on the duration of the action of the Infinitive, which happened before the action of the main verb.

*She looks tired. She seems **to have been working** all morning.*

The **to Infinitive** is used:

1) to express purpose = in order + to infinitive.

Robots use different kinds of sensors (in order) to collect the information they need.

2) to express reason after too / enough constructions.

Robots are used in the environments that are too dangerous for humans to go.

Robots are accurate enough to perform surgery.

3) as the subject of a sentence

It's important for a robot to have different kinds of sensors. =

To have different kinds of sensors is important for a robot.

4) after certain verbs. These include: *agree, begin, decide, would like, intend, manage, want, use, appear, seem, claim, etc.*

The engineers want to design a robot that can show emotions.

Note: we can use **not + to Infinitive**.

The company decided not to develop the new network.

5 after allow, enable, permit, recommend, expect, encourage, cause, force + object (see Complex Object).

Pressure sensors allow a robot to handle delicate items.

6) after question words (*where, how, what, who, which*).

Their Maths teacher explained how to solve the problem.

Note: If two infinitives are joined by '**and**' or '**or**', the '**to**' of the second infinitive can be omitted.

I want to call Margarita and invite her to the party.

The **Infinitive without to (Bare Infinitive)** is used:

1) after modal verbs (except for *ought to, have to, to be to*)

Robots can be sent underwater or into space.

2) after *make, let, see, hear, feel* + object (see Complex Object)

Actuators let robots move in different directions.

BUT in the Passive form: be made / be heard / be seen + to Infinitive (see Complex Subject)

He was made to reprogram a robot.

Note: *help* can be followed by the **Infinitive with or without to**.

Robots help humans (to) handle radioactive waste.

Complex Object with the Infinitive

The structure can be:

Subject + Verb + Object + to Infinitive or Bare Infinitive

The ***Object*** can be a name, a noun or an object pronoun (*me, you, him, her, us, them*).

We expected Tom to fix the computer.

Would you like me to reboot the system again?

Complex Object is used after the following verbs: *want, would like, expect, ask, allow, enable, permit, let, force, cause, make, etc.*

Complex Subject with the Infinitive

The structure can be:

1. Subject + Verb in the passive form + to Infinitive

He is said to be a good programmer.

Complex Subject is used after the following verbs: *see, hear, think, consider, know, expect, believe, say, report etc.*

2. Subject + Verb in the active form + to Infinitive

You seem to have a new smartphone.

Complex Subject is used after the following verbs: *seem, appear, happen, turn out, prove, chance.*

3. Subject + be + adjective / adverb + to Infinitive

She was happy to win the prize.

He is sure to come.

Complex Subject is used after the following adjectives: *happy, glad, sorry, pleased, (un) likely, sure, certain etc.*