

# INFINITIVES

*(With and Without To)*

How do we define the word  
“infinitive”?

The base form of a verb  
(usually with *to*)

# Functions:

[Infinitives-soundpt2.ppt](#)

riesky

# Infinitives without *to*

1. After modals auxiliary verbs (including *would*, *rather* and *had better*)
    - You **must come** to my house tonight.
    - She **would rather have** a cup of coffee.
  2. **Certain verbs** (let, make, see, hear, feel, watch, notice, help (informal style), \*have, \*know) + *an object* + infinitives without *to*
    - **Let her go.**
    - He **made the girl cry.**
- Note: in passive voice, they are followed by to-infinitive

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3. After **Why (not)**, suggesting it is pointless to do something (or introducing suggestion or advice)

- **Why pay** more if you can get high quality product with a lower price here?
- **Why not let** him do the job alone?

4. After and, or, except, but, than.

- I want **to take** a holiday **and have** some fun.
- I'll **do** anything **but love** him.
- I'll ask him **to go** with us **or wait** here for an hour.

5. In (positive) imperatives or requests.

- **Leave** her alone.
- **Open** the door.
- **Help** me please.
- **Do** your job carefully.

# Infinitives with *to*

Infinitives can “serve” as a noun, an adverb or an adjective.

Therefore, in a sentence, infinitives can appear:

1. as a subject of sentence

– To find your house is difficult.

– To see you when I wake up is a gift I didn't think could be real.

2. after certain verbs (mostly as an object)

...

3. In a construction **certain verbs + an object + to infinitive**

- Everyone here **wants you to tell** us the truth.
- I **advise you to take** the driving course.
- He **told everyone to make** a summary every week.

4. After an adjective

- Your explanation is **difficult to understand**.
- I'm **glad to see** you again here.

5. After a noun

- We need **a ladder to paint** the upper wall.
- I don't have any **work to do**.

6. After **certain verbs + an interrogative conjunction** (e.g. how, what, who, when, where, whether)

- Show me **what to do**.
- I'm still thinking **how to solve** this problem.

# Infinitives or V-ing

- After certain verbs both can be used, usually with a difference of meaning.
- Some important cases:
  1. Remember, forget, stop, go on and regret.
  2. Like + v-ing
  3. Hate, love, prefer
  4. Allow, advise, forbid, permit
  5. See, watch, hear.
  6. Try
  7. Begin and start