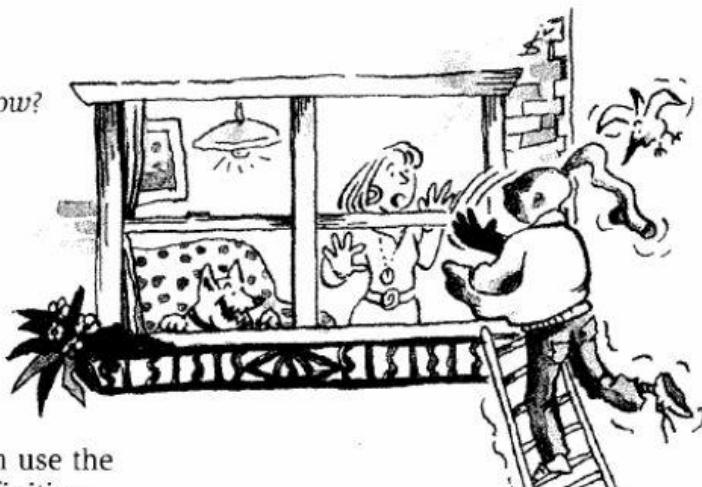


40 The bare infinitive

We generally use **to** with the infinitive, e.g. *I want to see you*. However, in some cases, we use the bare infinitive: that is, the infinitive without **to**.

USES

- After modals and after the auxiliaries **do/did**:
You must come.
They may arrive soon.
Did you pass the exam?
- After **Let's ...**:
[us]
Let's go out tonight.
- After **make** + noun/pronoun object:
He made me come here.
- After **would rather**:
I'd rather walk there than take the bus.
I'd rather not stay out late tonight.
- After **had better**:
We'd better go home now.
- After **Why not ...?**:
Why not phone me tomorrow?



- After the verb **help**, we can use the **to**-infinitive or the bare infinitive:
Can you help me (to) open this?

- After a verb of perception (*see, watch, notice, feel, hear*) + object:
I didn't hear you come in.

Note: Present participles also come after verbs of perception. See page 116.

- When there is a series of infinitives after a verb:
I'd like to come and see you.

Practice

40 In your notebook, copy the dialogue underlining all the infinitives and adding **to** where it is required.

Two friends, Alex and Megan, are talking.

A: Megan, where were you last night? I tried to find you but I couldn't see you anywhere. James says he didn't see you come in to the party.

M: Yes Alex, that's right. I'm sorry. My parents wouldn't let me come out last night. I wanted see you – honestly I did.

A: Why did your parents make you stay in? They usually allow you go out in the evenings, don't they?

M: Yes, but I hadn't finished doing my homework. And they refused let me go out until I had.

A: Oh dear, poor you. Oh well, never mind. Let's do something tonight instead.

M: OK. Actually, I'd like see that new film.

A: Would you? I suppose it might be quite good but I'd rather just go out to the cafe. I was hoping have a chance talk to you properly.

M: Well, why not do both? We could go to the early showing of the film and then go to the cafe.

A: I'm not sure I can afford go to the cinema.

M: That's all right. I've got some money.

A: So what time would you like meet, then?

M: Six o'clock I suppose – in the cinema. I'll try get there a bit earlier and buy the tickets.

