

To + infinitive

6B Uses of to + infinitive

The infinitive is the dictionary form of the verb (*go, swim, be, have* etc.).

We use *to* + infinitive (*to go, to swim, to be, etc.*) in many different patterns.

The negative is *not* + *to* + infinitive (*not to go, not to swim, not to be* etc.).



1 Infinitive of purpose

Use *to* + infinitive to give a reason:

A Why did you go to Egypt?

B **To see** the sharks.

I looked in the mirror **to check** my hair.

Read a book **to relax**.

2 verb + *to* + infinitive

When two verbs go together in a sentence, the first is followed by *to* + infinitive:

I **wanted to visit** Australia.

I **decided not to go** home.

Some of the verbs that follow this pattern are: *choose, decide, want, would like, try, promise, expect, remember, forget, need, plan, learn, offer.*

3 adjective + *to* + infinitive

Many adjectives can be followed by *to* + infinitive:

I was **surprised to get** the job.

It's **important not to forget** people's names at work.

4 verb + question word + *to* + infinitive

Some verbs can be followed by a question word + *to* + infinitive:

I **forgot what to do**.

I **don't know who to ask**.

Can you **tell me where to go**?

I **can't decide what to wear**.

Some of the verbs that follow this pattern are: *ask, decide, explain, forget, know, show, tell, understand*

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a Match the sentence halves 1–7 with the best ending.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It's dangerous | a to get some sleep. |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> They went to the gym | b to buy some food. |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> He drove to the shops | c to visit Paris! |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> It will be great | d to apply for the job. |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> I'm going to bed | e to text and drive. |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> She was disappointed | f to do some exercise. |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> She emailed the company | g not to pass her exam. |

b Complete the sentences with the correct question word + *to* + infinitive.

which to buy what to watch where to go
how to use ~~what to do~~ how to get who to speak to

- 1 I don't know what to do about my problem.
- 2 Can you show me _____ this computer?
- 3 I can't decide _____ for my holiday.
- 4 Do you know _____ to the station?
- 5 I'm not sure _____ on TV tonight.
- 6 I like both these dresses. I can't decide _____.
- 7 Can you tell me _____ about getting a refund?

Use the verbs in the box to complete the sentences with a positive or negative *to* + infinitive.

read eat break listen wear receive go arrive

- 1 I bought this book to read about sharks.
- 2 It's expensive _____ in restaurants every day.
- 3 I was annoyed _____ a reply to my email.
- 4 It's rude _____ when she's talking.
- 5 We promise _____ anything.
- 6 I don't know what _____ to the wedding.
- 7 You should leave now _____ on time.
- 8 I decided _____ to the party. I was too tired.