

5A Infinitive and gerund phrases

In a sentence with *It's* + adjective + infinitive, it is possible to follow the adjective with *for* and an object. The object can be a pronoun or a noun.

It's difficult for her to talk about her feelings openly.

It's customary for North Americans to make frequent eye contact.

For sentences in the negative, use *not* + infinitive or *not* + gerund.

It's considered rude not to thank people who give you gifts.

Not thanking people who give you gifts is considered rude.

Adjectives of feeling (*glad, happy, pleased*) cannot be used with the *It's* + adjective + infinitive structure. Instead, the sentence needs to say who has (or doesn't have) these feelings.

Most parents are happy to see their children go to college.

People are always delighted to get compliments.

1 Rewrite the sentences using infinitive or gerund phrases.

1. It's important to make a good first impression.
Making a good first impression is important.
2. Arriving late for an appointment is inappropriate in most countries.
3. It's fairly typical for college students to get to a party late.
4. It's considered rude not to be punctual for a dinner party.
5. Keeping the conversation going is easy for Elyse.
6. Showing the bottom of your feet is offensive in some places.
7. It's good form to bring a small gift to a dinner party.
8. Talking about politics is sometimes risky.
9. It's customary for some parents to brag about their children.
10. Thanking the hostess the day after a party is a nice idea.

2 Write sentences with infinitive phrases using the words below.

1. Tom / always happy / lend money to his friends
Tom is always happy to lend money to his friends.
2. Wendy / unusual / arrive late to class
It's unusual for Wendy to arrive late to class.
3. Donald / relaxing / not have homework over the weekend
4. Min / always glad / help a friend in need
5. many tourists / surprised / learn about some American customs
6. students / inappropriate / interrupt a teacher
7. new employees / often afraid / ask their bosses for help
8. dinner guests / customary / thank their hosts
9. businesspeople / important / be punctual for appointments