

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.*

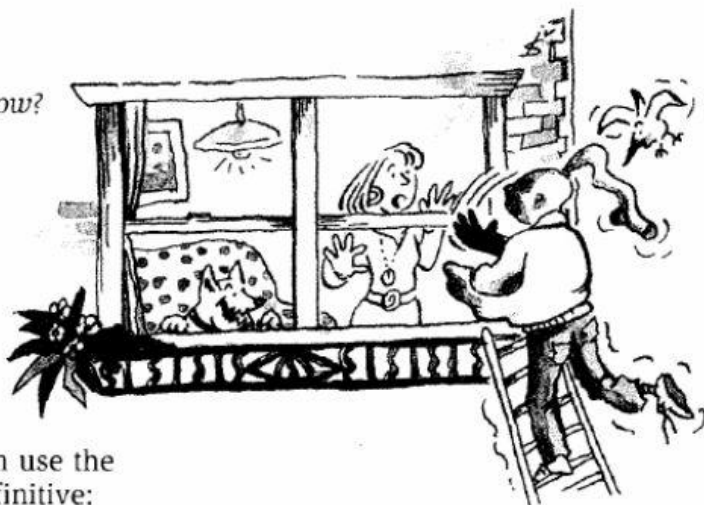
*I'd rather **not stay** out late tonight.*

- 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.

