

Verb + to ... (decide to ... / forget to ... etc.)

A

offer	decide	hope	deserve	promise
agree	plan	manage	afford	threaten
refuse	arrange	fail	forget	learn

After these verbs you can use **to ... (infinitive)**:

- ☐ It was late, so we **decided to take** a taxi home.
- ☐ Simon was in a difficult situation, so I **agreed to help** him.
- ☐ How old were you when you **learnt to drive**? (or learnt **how** to drive)
- ☐ I waved to Karen, but **failed to attract** her attention.

The negative is **not to ...**:

- ☐ We **decided not to go** out because of the weather.
- ☐ I **promised not to be** late.

After some verbs **to ...** is not possible. For example, **enjoy/think/suggest**:

- ☐ I **enjoy reading**. (not enjoy to read)
- ☐ Andy **suggested meeting** for coffee. (not suggested to meet)
- ☐ Are you **thinking of buying** a car? (not thinking to buy)

For verb + **-ing**, see Unit 53. For verb + preposition + **-ing**, see Unit 62.

B

After **dare** you can use the infinitive with or without **to**:

- ☐ I wouldn't **dare to tell** him. or I wouldn't **dare tell** him.

But after **dare not (or daren't)**, you must use the infinitive without **to**:

- ☐ I **daren't tell** him what happened. (not I daren't to tell him)

C

We also use **to ...** after:

seem appear tend pretend claim

For example:

- ☐ They **seem to have** plenty of money.
- ☐ I like Dan, but I think he **tends to talk** too much.
- ☐ Ann **pretended not to see** me when she passed me in the street.

There is also a *continuous* infinitive (**to be doing**) and a *perfect* infinitive (**to have done**):

- ☐ I **pretended to be reading** the paper. (= I pretended that I **was reading**)
- ☐ You **seem to have lost** weight. (= it seems that you **have lost** weight)
- ☐ Joe **seems to be enjoying** his new job. (= it seems that he **is enjoying** it)

D

After some verbs you can use a question word (**what/whether/how** etc.) + **to ...**:

We use this structure especially after:

ask decide know remember forget explain learn understand wonder

We asked	how	to get	to the station.
Have you decided	where	to go	for your holidays?
I don't know	whether	to apply	for the job or not.
Do you understand	what	to do?	

Also

show/tell/ask/advise/teach somebody **what/how/where** to do something:

- ☐ Can somebody **show me how to use** this camera?
- ☐ Ask Jack. He'll **tell you what to do**.

Exercises

54.1 Complete the sentences for these situations.

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Shall we get married? | Yes, let's. | They decided <u>to get married</u> . |
| 2 | Please help me. | OK. | She agreed _____. |
| 3 | Can I carry your bag for you? | No, thanks. I can manage. | He offered _____. |
| 4 | Let's meet at 8 o'clock. | OK, fine. | They arranged _____. |
| 5 | What's your name? | I'm not going to tell you. | She refused _____. |
| 6 | Please don't tell anyone. | I won't. I promise. | She promised _____. |

54.2 Complete each sentence with a suitable verb.

- Don't forget to lock the door when you go out.
- There was a lot of traffic, but we managed _____ to the airport in time.
- We couldn't afford _____ in London. It's too expensive.
- We've got new computer software in our office. I haven't learnt _____ it yet.
- Mark doesn't know what happened. I decided not _____ him.
- We were all afraid to speak. Nobody dared _____ anything.

54.3 Put the verb into the correct form, to ... or -ing. (See Unit 53 for verbs + -ing.)

- When I'm tired, I enjoy watching television. It's relaxing. (watch)
- I've decided _____ for another job. I need a change. (look)
- Let's get a taxi. I don't fancy _____ home. (walk)
- I'm not in a hurry. I don't mind _____. (wait)
- Tina ran in a marathon last week, but she failed _____. (finish)
- I wish that dog would stop _____. It's driving me crazy. (bark)
- Our neighbour threatened _____ the police if we didn't stop the noise. (call)
- We were hungry, so I suggested _____ dinner early. (have)
- Hurry up! I don't want to risk _____ the train. (miss)
- They didn't know I was listening to them. I pretended _____ asleep. (be)

54.4 Make a new sentence using the verb in brackets.

- You've lost weight. (seem) You seem to have lost weight.
- Tom is worried about something. (appear) Tom appears _____
- You know a lot of people. (seem) You _____
- My English is getting better. (seem) _____
- That car has broken down. (appear) _____
- David forgets things. (tend) _____
- They have solved the problem. (claim) _____

54.5 Complete each sentence using what/how/where/whether + these verbs:

do ~~get~~ go put ride use

- Do you know how to get to John's house?
- Would you know _____ if there was a fire in the building?
- You'll never forget _____ a bicycle once you've learnt.
- I've been invited to the party, but I haven't decided _____ or not.
- My room is very untidy. I've got so many things and I don't know _____ them.
- I have some clothes to wash. Can you show me _____ the washing machine?