

Click to verify



In contrast to the ones that require the to-infinitive (infinitive with to), some English verbs exist that need the directly following verb (which belongs to the same verb phrase) to appear in the infinitive form without to. This requirement for the bare infinitive is especially the case with these verbs:Modal verbs (can, could, may, might, will, would, should, must, etc.)The policeman says, You must come with me.I could help you, no problem.When do and the corresponding negation dont are conjugated in the present simple or in the past simple with their forms did and didnt.Melanie doesnt drink coffee.Exception: Sometimes, do is also used in affirmative sentences for emphasis:And please, do ask me if you have any questions.The following verbs may be utilised with a second verb in the infinitive with or without to:dare:Dont you dare hang up on me.In this sentence, dare is the first verb, followed by the base form hang up without to.Dont you dare to come back!Here, the verb to come (note: with to) stands right after dare.help:The book helped him stop smoking.The verb stop appears without to here.Yoga helps me to relax.Occasionally, an object is inserted between the conjugated verb and the infinitive without to. Some verbs that demand this constellation are:let:Lets go shopping. I need a new dress.This imperative includes us as the object in its short form s.Please, let me work now.make:My boss made me work on the weekend.Brenda made her tell all her secrets.Apart from the verbs mentioned above, some typical expressions in English also require the infinitive (base form of the verb) without to in subsequent position. Compare the following:Some fixed expressions with infinitives without to commonly occur in English. Despite the possibility of sounding inaccurate to foreign language learners, they are entirely correct:had better:You had better study for your exam.why not:Why not have some tea? We have some time left.why should:Why should I go to her birthday party? I dont like her.Besides the fact that would always wants the infinitive without to anyway, would rather and would sooner are used quite often in combination without a difference in meaning:I would rather stay here, but I have to go.Id sooner fail the exam than ask him for help.Found anything to improve? Send us a message.Back to top ENGLISH GRAMMAR The infinitive structure of verbs without 'to' is called the bare infinitive. Most infinitive structures begin with to, but sometimes the to is omitted. This is known as the bare infinitive or the base form. Bare infinitives are used as follows: After auxiliary modal verbs : (will, shall, would, could, can, may, might, must, should, needn't) I might walk there if it doesnt rain. You neednt go on a diet but you must eat healthy food. After the causative verbs 'make', 'have', 'let' and 'help':* ("help can also be used with to) She made the children do their homework. The lawyer had his assistant make copies of the contract. Dad wouldn't let me drive his car. Can you help me find/to find my keys. After verbs of perception: (see, watch, notice, observe, feel, hear) I watched him move to a seat at the back. We saw the burglar climb over the wall. He heard the teacher call his name. We felt the ground shake beneath our feet. When the -ing form is used instead of the bare infinitive, it suggests an action continuing over a period of time. As I walked home I heard the band playing. After would rather, had better: Id rather sit here. Youd better call a doctor. After prepositions such as except, but and than: Ill do anything except cook. . She does nothing but cry. She would prefer to stay single than marry that man. In the second clause when two infinitive structures are connected: I want you to tidy the house and (to) wash up after the party. He decided to turn off the computer and (to) go home. After 'why' when making suggestions: Why wait until later when we can do it now? Why take a taxi? We can walk home Why spend money on something we can't afford! back to grammar The verbs hear, see, notice and watch can be followed by object + infinitive without to or object + -ing form.I heard him go down the stairs.I watched him cross the road.I saw her light the lamp.We heard her scream.I watched them play in the garden.There is a difference between the infinitive and the ing form. The infinitive suggests that we see or hear the whole of an action or event. An ing form, on the other hand, suggests that we hear or see an action in progress.A progressive form can suggest repetition.I saw her throwing stones at the dog.Only ing forms can be used after can see, can hear, can smell etc.I could smell something burning.I could hear her crying.We cannot use possessive forms with ing forms after these verbs.I saw Mary lighting the lamp. (NOT I saw Marys lighting the lamp.)Look atLook at can be followed by an object + -ing form. In American English, object + infinitive is also possible.Look at him eating!Look at him eat! by Manjusha Nambiar Published April 13, 2020 Updated May 22, 2024 We generally use the marker -to with infinitives. However, in some cases, the infinitive is used without the marker to. When the infinitive is used without to, it is called a bare infinitive. Fill in the blanks with a bare or to-infinitive. You must . those walls painted. (get / to get)She should . (resign / to resign)I refuse . such demands. (entertain / to entertain)You need not . to him. (apologize / to apologize)If you dont want, you dont need (go / to go)How dare you . to me like that? (talk / to talk)Do you she is telling the truth? (think / to think)They made him (obey / to obey)I will not . to them. (listen / to listen)We watched the children . in the park. (play / to play)You had better . now. (start / to start)I would rather (wait / to wait)He was made (confess / to confess)Why not your problems with your parents? (discuss / to discuss)We may never out. (find / to find)I am happy . (help / to help) Answers get (After modal auxiliary verbs, the infinitive is used without to.)resignto entertainapologize (When need is used as a modal auxiliary verb, it is followed by an infinitive without to. When need is a modal auxiliary, we make questions and negatives without do.)to go (When need is an ordinary verb, it is followed by an infinitive with to.)talk (When dare is a modal auxiliary, it is followed by an infinitive without to.)think (After do, does and did, the infinitive is used without to.)obey (After make, the infinitive is used without to.)listenplay (After verbs like see, hear, feel and watch, the infinitive is used without to.)startwaitto confess (The passive form of make is followed by an infinitive with to.)discussfindto help See also Infinitives without to Tags: bare infinitivesinfinitive without toinfinitives We usually put the marker to before the infinitive.I want to go.She wants to sing.It is nice to meet you.In some cases we use the infinitive without to.After modal auxiliary verbsThe infinitive is used without to after modal auxiliary verbs will, shall, would, should, can, could, may, might and must.It might rain later in the evening. (NOT It might to rain later in the evening.)I must go now. (NOT I must to go now.)She should have resigned. (NOT She should have to resigned.)The infinitive without to can also be used after had better, need and dare.You had better see what she wants.You need not wait.After let, make, hear etc.The verbs let, make, see, hear, feel, watch and notice are followed by object + infinitive without to.They made me wait. (NOT They made me to wait.)I saw him slap the child. (NOT I saw him to slap the child.)I dont let my children stay up late.Did you hear him say that he was leaving?Help can be followed by an infinitive with or without to.She helped me to unload my car. OR She helped me unload my car. In passive forms with make, see, hear, help and know we use infinitives with to.I was made to wait. (NOT I was made wait.)He was helped to lift the box. After the following phrases we use the Infinitiv without to:1. after He run very fast. As a boy he run very fast. I fly to Africa this summer. I fly to Africa this summer. I go now. You n't smoke here. You n't go. We sing a song. We sing a song. She cook a meal for his birthday. She cook a meal for his birthday.2. after the auxiliary 3. after the following structures You had better clean up your room. Susan would rather study for her exam tomorrow. I would sooner read a book than watch this film. Why not ask your neighbour for help? Why should we go by car? Why should we not go by car?4. after verbs of perception + object (action has finished) She feels the rain fall on her face I heard Peter sing a song. Mandy noticed the boy climb the tree. They saw him climb up the roof. He watched the thieves steal a car.5. after let Sandy let her child go out alone.The mother let her daughter decide on her own. Let's go for a walk through the park.6. after make + object She made Peggy and Samantha clean the room.

What is infinitive without to. Infinitive without to examples. List of verbs followed by infinitive without to.