

Infinitives

Infinitive = to + Simple Form of the Verb

An infinitive is the base form of a verb, often preceded by the word "to." It is not limited by subject or tense, which means it can function in a sentence without being conjugated to indicate a particular time, person, or number.

Grammatical Functions

Infinitives can play different roles in the sentence grammatically. They can function as the subject of the sentence, the object of the sentence, a subject complement, or an adjective complement.

Infinitive as the Subject:

- To increase the profitability of the corporation is the CEO's main objective.
- To see you is nice.

Infinitive as the Object:

- The CEO wants to increase the profitability of the corporation.
- I would like to see you.

Infinitive as the Subject Complement:

- The CEO's main objective is to increase the profitability of the corporation.
- My top priority is to see you immediately.

Infinitive as the Adjective Complement:

- It is important to increase the profitability of the corporation.
- It is nice to see you.

Different Forms of the Infinitives

Non-Perfect Infinitives:

- **Active: to do sth**
The mechanic needed to change the oil.
- **Passive: to be done**
The oil needed to be changed.

Perfect Infinitives:

- **Active: to have done something**
Mr. Jackson expected his men **to have killed Johnny**.
- **Passive: to have been done**
Johnny was expected **to have been killed**.

Infinitives of Purpose

Purpose = Goal, Intention

Infinitives of purpose are those infinitives which show why a person wants to do something. In infinitives of purpose, “to” has the same meaning as “in order to” or “so as to”.

Examples:

Robert is saving his money **(in order) to buy a new car**.

The soldiers are in an ambush **(in order) to attack the enemy**.

The CEO is restructuring the corporation **(in order) to increase its profitability**.

The Ellipsis of the Infinitive

Ellipsis = Deletion, Omission

The ellipsis of the infinitive occurs when the infinitive verb is implied or understood from context and therefore omitted from the sentence. This often happens in coordinated clauses where the infinitive has already been mentioned and does not need to be repeated.

Examples:

He couldn't go there even if he wanted to [go there].

They want to go to the park, but we don't want to [go to the park].

I promised to call her, and she promised to [call me] as well.

She decided to go to the party, but I chose not to [go to the party].

She attempted to cook dinner, but eventually decided not to [cook dinner].

Ellipsis of the infinitive helps to avoid redundancy and makes the sentence more concise while still maintaining clarity. This technique is common in both written and spoken language.

Important Points for the Final Exam

Common Verbs Followed by the Infinitive (To+ Base Form of Verb)

agree	chance	expect	mean (=	request	venture
appear	claim	fail	intend)	resolve	volunteer
arrange	choose	get	need	say	wait
ask	come	grow (up)	offer	seek	want
attempt	consent	guarantee	pay	seem	wish
beg	dare	hesitate	prepare	shudder	would
care	decide	hope	pretend	strive	like
can /	demand	hurry	profess	struggle	yearn
can't	deserve	incline	promise	swear	
afford	determine	learn	prove	tend	
can /	elect	manage	refuse	threaten	
can't wait	endeavor		remain	turn out	

Examples:

agree: She agreed to help with the project.

appear: He appears to know the answer.

arrange: They arranged to meet at noon.

ask: Can I ask you to explain that again?

attempt: She attempted to lift the heavy box.

beg: He begged to be given another chance.

care: Do you care to join us for dinner?

can / can't afford: We can't afford to buy a new car.

can / can't wait: I can't wait to see the new movie.

chance: She chanced to meet him at the coffee shop.

claim: He claims to have seen a UFO.

choose: I chose to take the scenic route.

come: She came to realize her mistake.

consent: He consented to be interviewed.

dare: She dared to question his authority.

decide: They decided to postpone the meeting.

demand: I demand to see the manager.

deserve: You deserve to be happy.

determine: We determined to find the truth.

elect: They elected to stay at home.

endeavor: He endeavored to complete the task on time.

expect: She expects to finish by tomorrow.

fail: He failed to submit the assignment.

get: I need to get to the airport by 5 PM.

grow (up): They hope to grow up to be like their parents.

guarantee: I guarantee to fix the problem by tomorrow.

hesitate: She hesitated to ask for help.

hope: I hope to visit Paris someday.
hurry: We need to hurry to catch the train.
incline: He is inclined to trust her judgment.
learn: She is learning to play the guitar.
manage: He managed to finish the project on time.
mean (= intend): I mean to talk to you about that.
need: You need to complete the form.
offer: He offered to drive her home.
pay: She agreed to pay to attend the concert.
prepare: We must prepare to leave soon.
pretend: He pretended to be asleep.
profess: She professed to know nothing about the incident.
promise: I promise to call you tomorrow.
prove: He proved to be a reliable friend.
refuse: She refused to answer the question.
remain: He remained to finish his work.
request: They requested to see the manager.
resolve: I resolve to make better decisions.
say: They say to err is human.
seek: He seeks to improve his skills.
seem: It seems to be working now.
shudder: She shuddered to think what might happen.
strive: We strive to achieve excellence.
struggle: He struggled to lift the heavy box.
swear: She swore to tell the truth.
tend: They tend to arrive late.
threaten: He threatened to call the police.
turn out: It turned out to be a great day.
venture: She ventured to ask a difficult question.
volunteer: He volunteered to help with the event.
wait: We can't wait to see you!
want: I want to go to the beach.
wish: She wishes to travel the world.
would like: I would like to thank everyone for their support.
yearn: He yearned to return to his homeland.

Common Verbs Followed by the Gerund (Base Form of Verb + sing)

abhor	appreciate	defend	dispute	feel like	keep (=
acknowledge	avoid	delay	dread	feign	continue)
admit	be worth	deny	endure	finish	keep on
advise	can't help	detest	enjoy	forgive	mention
allow	celebrate	discontinue	escape	give up	mind (=
anticipate	confess	discuss	evade	(= stop)	object to)
	consider	dislike	explain	imagine	miss
			fancy		

necessitat e	postpone	recollect	resist	suggest	urge
omit	practice	recomme nd	resume	support	warrant
permit	prevent	report	risk	tolerate	
picture	put off	resent	shirk	understan d	
	recall		shun		

abhor: She abhors waking up early.
acknowledge: He acknowledged making a mistake.
admit: She admitted stealing the cookies.
advise: I advise taking the bus.
allow: They do not allow smoking inside.
anticipate: We anticipate having a great time.
appreciate: I appreciate your helping me.
avoid: He avoids talking to strangers.
be worth: It is worth visiting the museum.
can't help: She can't help laughing at his jokes.
celebrate: They celebrated winning the championship.
confess: He confessed cheating on the test.
consider: She considers moving to a new city.
defend: They defended staying out late.
delay: He delayed making a decision.
deny: She denied knowing anything about it.
detest: I detest cleaning the bathroom.
discontinue: They discontinued producing that model.
discuss: We discussed going on a trip.
dislike: She dislikes running in the rain.
dispute: He disputed having to pay the fine.
dread: She dreads going to the dentist.
endure: He endured working long hours.
enjoy: They enjoy playing soccer.
escape: He escaped doing the chores.
evade: She evades answering questions.
explain: He explained fixing the problem.
fancy: Do you fancy going out tonight?
feel like: I feel like eating ice cream.
feign: She feigned being sick.
finish: He finished writing the report.
forgive: She forgave him for lying.
give up (= stop): He gave up smoking.
imagine: I can't imagine living anywhere else.
keep (= continue): She keeps calling me.
keep on: He keeps on talking.
mention: She mentioned seeing you.
mind (= object to): Do you mind opening the window?
miss: He misses seeing his friends.
necessitate: The job necessitates working weekends.

omit: She omitted mentioning the incident.
permit: They permit parking here.
picture: Picture living in a beach house.
postpone: They postponed having the meeting.
practice: She practices playing the piano.
prevent: They prevented him from leaving.
put off: She put off doing the laundry.
recall: I recall meeting her last year.
recollect: He recollects going there as a child.
recommend: They recommend trying the new restaurant.
report: She reported seeing the accident.
resent: He resents being told what to do.
resist: She couldn't resist eating the cake.
resume: They resumed playing after the break.
risk: He risks losing his job.
shirk: He shirks doing his duties.
shun: They shun talking about the past.
suggest: She suggested going to the park.
support: They support raising awareness.
tolerate: I can't tolerate being lied to.
understand: He understands needing more time.
urge: She urged joining the club.
warrant: His actions warrant taking legal action.

Point:

allow doing something
 allow somebody to do something

advise doing something
 advise somebody to do something

recommend doing something
 recommend somebody to do something

Verbs Followed by either a Gerund or an Infinitive with no or little Change in Meaning:

attempt	can't	hate	prefer
begin	stand	like	propose
can't bear	continue	love	start

Examples:

Attempt:

- Infinitive: She attempted to climb the mountain.
- Gerund: She attempted climbing the mountain.

Begin:

- Infinitive: He began to write his novel.
- Gerund: He began writing his novel.

Can't bear:

- Infinitive: I can't bear to see him cry.
- Gerund: I can't bear seeing him cry.

Can't stand:

- Infinitive: She can't stand to wait in long lines.
- Gerund: She can't stand waiting in long lines.

Continue:

- Infinitive: They continued to work on the project.
- Gerund: They continued working on the project.

Hate:

- Infinitive: He hates to be interrupted.
- Gerund: He hates being interrupted.

Like:

- Infinitive: She likes to read before bed.
- Gerund: She likes reading before bed.

Love:

- Infinitive: He loves to travel to new places.
- Gerund: He loves traveling to new places.

Prefer:

- Infinitive: I prefer to eat at home.
- Gerund: I prefer eating at home.

Propose:

- Infinitive: He proposed to take a break.
- Gerund: He proposed taking a break.

Start:

- Infinitive: She started to learn French.
- Gerund: She started learning French.

Verbs Followed by either a Gerund or an Infinitive with a Change in Meaning:

forget
go on

quit
remember

stop
try

regret

Forget:

- Infinitive: She forgot to lock the door.
- Gerund: She forgot locking the door.

Explanation: "Forget to do something" means failing to remember to do it (in the future), while "forget doing something" means not recalling something that was done (in the past).

Go on:

- Infinitive: After discussing the budget, they went on to plan the next event.
- Gerund: After discussing the budget, they went on planning the next event.

Explanation: "Go on to do something" suggests moving on to a different activity, while "go on doing something" means continuing with the same activity.

Quit:

- Infinitive: He quit to pursue other interests.
- Gerund: He quit smoking last year.

Explanation: "Quit to do something" can mean stopping one action to start another, while "quit doing something" means to stop an activity entirely.

Remember:

- Infinitive: Remember to take your keys.
- Gerund: I remember taking my keys this morning.

Explanation: "Remember to do something" refers to recalling a task that needs to be done in the future, while "remember doing something" refers to recalling a past action.

Stop:

- Infinitive: She stopped to rest for a while.
- Gerund: She stopped smoking last year.

Explanation: "Stop to do something" means pausing one activity to start another, while "stop doing something" means ceasing an activity altogether.

Try:

- Infinitive: I tried to open the door, but it was locked.
- Gerund: She tried opening the door, but it was stuck.

Explanation: "Try to do something" indicates an attempt to accomplish something difficult, while "try doing something" suggests experimenting with an action to see if it resolves an issue.

Regret:

- Infinitive: I regret to inform you that the meeting is canceled.
- Gerund: He regrets leaving his job.

Explanation: "Regret to do something" is used to express sorrow about an action you are about to take or announce, while "regret doing something" means feeling sorry about something that has already happened.

Source:

<https://www.anglophone.ir/high2/>