

84 Verb + infinitive



1 Verb + infinitive without *to*

We use the infinitive without *to* after modal verbs (e.g. *should, can, must*):

I can't believe it!

We should send her an email.

You must get a job soon.

We use *let's* + infinitive without *to* to make suggestions:

Let's go to the cinema this evening.

Let's celebrate ...

I don't like burgers – let's have a pizza.

2 Verb + infinitive with *to*

We use the infinitive with *to* after some verbs:

*can/can't afford agree arrange ask choose decide
deserve expect learn offer plan promise refuse seem want*

What a surprise! I didn't expect to see you here.

She wants to find a better job.

Where did you arrange to meet Danny and Laura?

After *help* we can use an infinitive with *to* or without *to*; the meaning is the same:

He helped to carry our bags. or *He helped carry our bags.*



With all the other verbs above we ALWAYS use *to*:

~~*X I want buy some new jeans.*~~

✓ I want to buy some new jeans.

3 *would* + *like/love/hate/prefer*

We use the infinitive with *to* after *would* ('d) *like/love/hate/prefer*:

My parents would love to meet you.

I'd hate to miss Clara's party.

Would you like to come with us on Tuesday evening?

Look at the difference between *would like* and *like*:

I'd like to sail around the world. (= I want to do this in the future.)

I like sailing. (= I enjoy sailing.)