

Some verbs are followed by an infinitive only when they have an object (► Unit 46.4):

*advise allow cause command compel encourage forbid force get instruct invite leave
oblige order permit persuade recommend remind request teach tell tempt urge warn*

X They forced to open our suitcases. ✓ They forced us to open our suitcases.

We use *to* + infinitive after *would like*, *would love* and *would hate*:

X When we arrive, I'd like taking a nap. ✓ When we arrive, I'd like to take a nap.

4 Infinitives of purpose and result

We can use an infinitive to describe the purpose or reason for an action:

Cover the turkey in silver foil to keep the meat moist.

To cater for tourists, the government invested huge sums in new airports and roads.



We use *for* before the infinitive only when the subject of the infinitive is DIFFERENT from the subject of the sentence:

X She went to WalMart for to get some groceries.

✓ She went to WalMart to get some groceries. (same subjects)

We bought a cage for John to keep his hamster in. (different subjects)

FORMALITY CHECK To make the meaning clear and in more formal English we can use *in order* or *so as* + infinitive of purpose:

Interest rates have been raised in order to reduce inflationary pressures.

We have removed the warning signs so as not to alarm members of the public.

The infinitive can also describe a result or something surprising, especially with *only* and verbs such as *find*, *discover*, *realise*, etc:

They queued for hours at the box office only to discover that the show was sold out.

We also use infinitives after *too* and *enough* (► Unit 59.4) to talk about results:

That blue outfit was too informal to wear to the reception.

There isn't enough (food) to go around, I'm afraid.

5 Infinitives after adjectives and nouns

Many adjectives, especially those describing feelings, can be followed by *to* + infinitive.

*able/unable afraid anxious ashamed bound careful certain crazy
curious due eager fit happy impossible likely lucky pleased prepared
right shocked stupid sure surprised thrilled welcome wrong*

We're thrilled to welcome this year's prizewinner onto the podium.

The Bensons are lucky to be having such good weather.

We also use *to* + infinitive after some nouns:

*attempt bid decision desire fool incentive need nuisance
opportunity place pleasure reason time willingness wish*

She's finally made a decision to leave. Clare would be a fool to marry him.

We can use a noun + *to* + infinitive after *there is/are* and *have (got)* to express an obligation:

Don't disturb me – I've got a report to write this evening. There are some bills to pay.