

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

A

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

If these verbs are followed by another verb, the structure is usually *verb + to...* (infinitive):

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

Note these examples with the *negative not to...*:

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

With many verbs you cannot normally use *to...*. For example, enjoy/think/suggest:

- I **enjoy dancing**. (not 'enjoy to dance')
- Ian **suggested going** to the cinema. (not 'suggested to go')
- Are you **thinking of buying** a car? (not 'thinking to buy')

For verb + *-ing*, see Unit 52. For verb + preposition + *-ing*, see Unit 61.

B

We also use *to...* after: seem appear tend pretend claim. For example:

- They **seem to have plenty** of money.
- I like George but I think he **tends to talk** too much.
- Ann **pretended not to see** me as 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 newspaper. (= I pretended that I was reading)
- You **seem to have lost** weight. (= it seems that you have lost weight)

C

We say 'decide to do something', 'promise to do something' etc. In the same way, we say 'a decision to do something', 'a promise to do something' etc. (*noun + to...*):

- I think his **decision to give up** his job was stupid.
- George has a **tendency to talk** too much.

D

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

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

E

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

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 change** the film in this camera?
- Ask Jack. He'll **tell you what to do**.

EXERCISES

53.1 Complete the sentences for each situation.

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Shall we get married? | | Yes, let's. | They decided <i>to get</i> ...
... <i>married</i> ... |
| 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 |

53.2 Complete each sentence with a suitable verb.

- Don't forget *to post* the letter I gave you.
- There was a lot of traffic but we managed to the airport in time.
- Jill has decided not a car.
- We've got a new computer in our office. I haven't learnt it yet.
- I wonder where Sue is. She promised not late.
- We were all too afraid to speak. Nobody dared anything.

53.3 Put the verb into the correct form, *to...* or *-ing*. (See Unit 52 for verb + *-ing*.)

- When I'm tired, I enjoy *watching* television. It's relaxing. (watch)
- It was a nice day, so we decided for a walk. (go)
- It's a nice day. Does anyone fancy for a walk? (go)
- I'm not in a hurry. I don't mind (wait)
- They don't have much money. They can't afford out very often. (go)
- I wish that dog would stop It's driving me mad. (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)
- I'm still looking for a job but I hope something soon. (find)

53.4 Make a new sentence using the verb in brackets.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---|
| 1 He has lost weight. | (seem) | ... <i>He seems to have lost weight</i> ... |
| 2 Tom is worried about something. | (appear) | Tom appears |
| 3 You know a lot of people. | (seem) | You |
| 4 My English is getting better. | (seem) | |
| 5 That car has broken down. | (appear) | |
| 6 David forgets things. | (tend) | |
| 7 They have solved the problem. | (claim) | |

53.5 Complete each sentence using *what/how/whether* + *one of these verbs*:

- do get go ride say use
- Do you know *how to get* to John's house?
 - Can you show me this washing machine?
 - Would you know if there was a fire in the building?
 - You'll never forget a bicycle once you have learned.
 - I was really astonished. I didn't know
 - I've been invited to the party but I don't know or not.