

# Grammar & Usage

## Unit 6 The *to*-infinitive



**6.1** The infinitive is the form of the verb that doesn't change to indicate person (first, second or third), number (singular or plural) or time (present, past, future). It is formed by ***to*** + a **root verb** (*be, go, fall, cry, etc.*). This form is commonly known as the infinitive or the *to*-infinitive.

She wants **to go** with us.

**Compare:** She usually *goes* with us.

They refused **to help** us.

**Compare:** They *helped* us yesterday.



We can use the infinitive:

- in the structure *verb* + *object* + *question word* + *to-infinitive*

Sam will *tell you what to do*.





Verbs that can be used in this structure include:

*show tell ask advise teach remind*

***I asked her how to make a cake.***



We can use the infinitive:

- after a noun

I have a lot of **work** *to do* today.





We use the passive if the subject of the sentence is not the doer of the action, as expressed by the infinitive.

*He is the right **boy to be trusted** with the job.*

**Compare:** *He is the right **boy to do the job**.*

In the **there + be** structure, it doesn't matter whether we use the active or passive form.

There is a lot of **work to do/to be done** today.



We can use the infinitive:

- as an adverbial to show:

**the purpose of an action**

She called *to tell us the good news*.

**the result of an action**

My brother is **too young to look after himself**.

**a disappointing or surprising event** (often used with **only** for emphasis)

He found his key *only to lose it again*.

