

Unit 54

Verb + infinitive

a	agree	offer	decide	appear	forget
	refuse	attempt	plan	seem	learn (how)
	promise	manage	arrange	pretend	dare
	threaten	fail	hope	afford	tend

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

- As it was late, we **decided to take** a taxi home.
- I like George but I think he **tends to talk** too much.
- How old were you when you **learnt to drive**? (or 'learnt how to drive')
- They **agreed to lend** me some money when I told them the position I was in.

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

- We **decided not to go** out because of the weather.
- He **pretended not to see** me as he passed me in the street.
- We **decided not to go** out because of the weather.
- He **pretended not to see** me as he passed me in the street.

With other important verbs you cannot use the infinitive. For example **think** and **suggest**:

- Are you **thinking of buying** a car? (not 'thinking to buy')
- Tom **suggested going** to the cinema. (not 'suggested to go')

b There is a *continuous* infinitive (**to be doing**) and a *perfect* infinitive (**to have done**). We use these especially after **seem**, **appear** and **pretend**:

- I **pretended to be reading**. (= I pretended that I was reading)
- You **seem to have lost** weight. (= it seems that you have lost weight)

c After **dare** you can use the infinitive with or without **to**:

- I wouldn't **dare to ask** him. or I wouldn't **dare ask** him.

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