

Unit 55

Verb + object + infinitive

a

want ask expect help mean(= intend) would like would prefer

There are two possible structures after these verbs:

verb + to + infinitive

I asked **to see** the manager.

We **expected to be** late.

He **would like to come**.

verb + object + to + infinitive

I asked **Tom to help** me.

We **expected him to be** late.

He **would like me to come**.

- Can somebody **help me (to) move** this table?

Be especially careful with **want**. Do not say 'want that...':

- Everyone **wanted him to win** the race. (*not* 'wanted that he won')
- Do you **want me to come** early? (*not* 'want that I come')

b

tell remind force enable persuade
order warn invite teach (how) get (= persuade)

These verbs have the structure *verb + object + to + infinitive*:

- **Remind me to phone** Ann tomorrow.
- **Who taught you (how) to drive?**
- He **warned me not to touch** anything.
- I **got Jack to repair** my car.

Here is an example in the *passive*:

- I **was warned not to touch** anything.

You cannot use **suggest** with this structure (see also **Unit 35c**):

c

advise recommend encourage allow permit

There are two possible structures after these verbs. Compare:

verb + -ing (without an object)

verb + object + to + infinitive

He doesn't **allow smoking** in his house.

I wouldn't **recommend staying** at that hotel.

He doesn't **allow anyone to smoke** in his house.

I wouldn't **recommend you to stay** at that hotel.

d

Make and let

These verbs have the structure *verb + infinitive* (without **to**):

- Hot weather **makes me feel** uncomfortable. (= causes me to feel)
- I only did it because they **made me do it**. (= forces me to do it)
- She wouldn't **let me read** the letter. (= allow me to read)

Remember that **make** and **let** have the infinitive without **to**:

- They **made me do it**. (*not* 'they made me to do it')
- Tom **let me drive** his car yesterday. (*not* 'Tom let me to drive')

But in the *passive* **make** has the infinitive with **to**:

- I only did it because I **was made to do it**.

advise recommend encourage allow permit

