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## Verbs Followed by Gerunds and Infinitives

Infinitives and gerunds<sup>1</sup> often occur after verbs: the infinitive as a direct object, as an infinitive of purpose or as an adverbial modifier; and the gerund as a direct object. Following are some lists of the most common combinations.

### 1) VERBS FREQUENTLY FOLLOWED BY INFINITIVES (WITH “TO”):

AFFORD: My parents were poor; therefore, they could not *afford to send* me to college.

AGREE: We cannot *agree to do* that; that’s against the law.

AIM: The Government’s measures *aimed to reduce*<sup>2</sup> inflation to 2%.

APPEAR: Mary *appears to be* tired; she must have worked a lot today.

ARRANGE: The committee has *arranged to meet* once a week.

ASK: John *asked to attend* the meeting.

ATTEMPT: In 1992, military officers *attempted to overthrow* the President.

BEG: They *begged to go* with us to the circus.

BOTHER: Don’t *bother to call* me; I won’t answer the telephone.

CARE: Would you *care to join* our Conversation Club?

CEASE: He *ceased to bother* me after I gave him a black eye.

CHOOSE: We *chose to come* back because of the heavy rain.

CLAIM: Some French scientists *claim to have* found a cure for AIDS.

CONSENT: Mr. Taylor *consented to give* the inaugural speech at the art exhibit.

DARE: When we saw him raging, we didn’t *dare to open* our mouths.

DECIDE: Have you *decided to answer* the letter yet?

DESERVE: Jane does not *deserve to pass* the course; she seldom comes to class.

DETERMINE: The students have *determined to have* the picnic on Saturday.

ENDEAVOR: We have *endeavored to do* our best at the competition.

EXPECT: I *expect to see* you at the party. Don’t miss it, please!

FAIL: Do not *fail to visit* the art museum this summer; it has beautiful paintings!

HAVE: I *have to go* to school at eight; I have an exam.

HESITATE: Do not *hesitate to call on* me for help; I’ll come right away.

HOPE: I *hope to hear* from you soon; so don’t forget to call me.

INTEND: We *intend to go* to New York next summer; we have been told it is beautiful!

LEARN: My wife has *learned to control* her temper; now she’s an easy-going woman.

LONG: When I’m lonely, I *long to see* my family.

MANAGE: During the recession years, we *managed to save* as much as we could.

MEAN: Sheila *meant to give* me the book, but she forgot.

NEED: My students *need to study* harder if they want to pass this course.

NEGLECT: Some fathers *neglect to maintain* their children. That’s a sin!

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<sup>1</sup>Infinitives, gerunds and participles are often referred to as **verbals**.

<sup>2</sup>**Aim + infinitive** is more common in AmE and it is considered to be informal. In formal use, and especially in BrE, **aim at + gerund** is more common. E.g., The Government’s measures aimed at reducing inflation to 2%.

PLAN:<sup>3</sup> We *plan to go* to the beach this Sunday.  
PREFER: I *prefer to stay* at home tonight than to go to the party.  
PRETEND: As Matthew was accompanied by Mary, he *pretended to be* her boyfriend.  
PROMISE: My father *promised to come* early tonight, but he hasn't come yet.  
PROPOSE: John *proposed<sup>4</sup> to start* the project tomorrow.  
PROVE: After the investigations, John's hunches *proved to be* correct.  
REFUSE: I called several times, but Mary *refused to answer* the telephone.  
REGRET: I *regret to say<sup>5</sup>* that our plans have failed.  
REMEMBER: Please *remember to buy<sup>6</sup>* bread on your way back home.  
SEEK: By crying, children *seek to draw* their parents' attention.  
SEEM: After my explanations, the class *seemed to understand* everything I said.  
STRUGGLE: My family *struggled to survive* during the recession years; they had very little to eat.  
SWEAR: On the day my wife and I got married, I *swore to be* a good husband.  
THREATEN: The terrorists *threatened to blow* the building if their demands were not met.  
TRY: I've *tried<sup>7</sup> to contact* you many times, but I've been unlucky.  
UNDERTAKE: Since an urgent decision needed to be made, the committee *undertook to contact* all the members right away.  
VENTURE: No one *ventured to go out* during the curfew; they could be arrested.  
VOLUNTEER: Very few students *volunteer to read* aloud in class.  
WAIT: I couldn't *wait to see* my son when he was born.  
WANT: I *want to go* to the party with you. Please take me.  
WILL: Despite our warnings, Michael *willed to make* that dangerous trip.  
WISH: Many refugees *wish to live* better in the USA  
WOULD LIKE: I would *like to have* some orange juice. Could you make some for me?

## **II) VERBS FREQUENTLY FOLLOWED BY INFINITIVES OF PURPOSE<sup>8</sup>**

EAT: Some people *eat* (in order) *to live*; others live to eat.  
GO: The Martínezes *went* to London *to learn* English.  
LIVE: Some people *live to eat*; others eat to live.  
WORK: John *works* (in order) *to maintain* himself while studying at the university.

## **III) VERBS OF THINKING + OBJ. PRONOUN/NOUN + TO BE**

BELIEVE: Paul may be crazy, but I *believe him to be* an honest person.  
CONSIDER: John may have many defects, but I *consider him to be* the best candidate.  
FEEL: As I saw the accident, I *felt<sup>9</sup> it to be* my duty to call the police.

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<sup>3</sup> **Plan + inf.** means **to make a plan to do something; to intend to do something.**

<sup>4</sup> **Propose + inf.** means **to intend.**

<sup>5</sup> In this case, the action of regretting occurs first; the action of saying occurs afterwards.

<sup>6</sup> In this case, the action of remembering occurs first; the action of buying occurs afterwards

<sup>7</sup> Generally, **try + inf.** means 'attempt, to make an effort to do something'. Informally, in this sense, **try + and + simple form** of the verb can be used (esp. in the imperative). E.g., *Try and call* me up tonight.

<sup>8</sup> Infinitives of purpose express the intention of the speaker; they are usually a short form for **in order to**.

<sup>9</sup> **Feel** in this case means *consider, believe*.

KNOW: You can trust Mary; she's *known to be* an honest person.<sup>10</sup>

SUPPOSE: We *are supposed to be* there at three; so let's hurry up.<sup>11</sup>

THINK: As John always talks about his family, I *think him to be* a good father.

UNDERSTAND: I *understood his words to be* a good piece of advice to me.

#### **IV) VERBS FREQUENTLY FOLLOWED BY "HOW" + INFINITIVE (WITH "TO"):**

DISCOVER: After reading the owner's manual, I *discovered how to start* the car.

EXPLAIN: The instructor *explained how to use* the parachutes.

FIND OUT: We have to *find out how to solve* this problem. Let's not dismay!

KNOW: Can you give me a hand? I don't *know how to answer* this test.

LEARN: If you want to *learn how to pronounce* well, you need to follow my advice.

SHOW: Pay attention! I'll *show (you) how to repair* this appliance as its plan indicates.

UNDERSTAND: After his explanations, I *understood how to do* the project.

WONDER: When I am broke, I *wonder how to make* money without working.

#### **V) VERBS FREQUENTLY FOLLOWED BY GERUNDS:**

ADMIT: The thief *admitted stealing* the money.

ANTICIPATE: John *anticipated meeting* his partners a week in advance.

APPRECIATE: Mary would *appreciate hearing* from you; so please write to her.

AVOID: After their quarrel, Mary has *avoided meeting* Paul.

CONSIDER: John has already *considered continuing* his studies.

CONTEMPLATE: My father *contemplates visiting* the Alps next summer.

DEFER: Please *defer paying* the bill until after January.

DELAY: Matthew *delayed writing* the letter until the last minute.

DENY: When questioned, the boy *denied cheating* on the exam.

DETEST: How I *detest begging* people for favors.

DISLIKE: Tom *dislikes going* to the dentist; that's why he's crabby.

ENJOY: After a hectic week, they *enjoyed spending* a day at home.

EXCUSE: Please *excuse our calling* you by your first name.

ESCAPE: By some miracle, George *escaped being hurt* in the fight.

EXPECT: I *expect to be*<sup>12</sup> at your house before 8 o'clock.

FANCY: I don't *fancy his living* with us for a long time.

FINISH: Charles had barely *finished putting* his room in order when the lights went out.

FORGIVE: I cannot *forgive being* humiliated by rich people.

GIVE UP: John *gave up smoking* ten years ago.

GO ON: After a short pause, the Principal *went on speaking*.

IMAGINE: Sean can't *imagine doing* that again!

I can't *imagine John crying*.

KEEP (ON) (= continue): Jenny is so homesick that she *keeps (on) hoping* for a letter from home.

Our boss *keeps us working* all day.

LEAVE: Mary *left me waiting* last night.

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<sup>10</sup>As can be seen, **know + infinitive** is very common in the passive.

<sup>11</sup>**Be supposed to+ infinitive** conveys the idea of duty or assumption.

<sup>12</sup>**Expect + inf.** merely means a thought about the future: I think that I shall be there before 8 o'clock.

LEAVE OFF (= cease; stop): It didn't *leave off raining* until midnight.

LOVE: I *love dancing* to all kinds of music.

MENTION: Susan *mentioned seeing* John in the zoo.

MIND (= dislike, object to): I do not *mind working*<sup>13</sup> in the summer.

MISS: Due to the traffic jam, Arthur *missed catching* his usual bus.

PARDON: Please *pardon my calling* you by your first name.

PLAN: We have *planned (on) going* to the beach this summer.

POSTPONE: Jack *postponed leaving* for college because of health problems.

PROPOSE: The President *proposed increasing* the minimum salary to Bs. 150,000.00.

PRACTICE: Please *practice pronouncing* English words quickly.

PUT OFF: Jack *put off leaving* for college until September.

QUIT: James *quit working* for Mrs. Steele because she paid him very little.

RECOLLECT: I can't *recollect having* seen him before.

RECOMMEND: Martha *recommended seeing* the show; it has new attractions.

REGRET: After I got to know her well, I *regretted telling* her my secrets.

RESENT: Joan *resents working* so hard for such a low salary.

RESIST: We couldn't *resist eating* another piece of cake.

RISK: Good students don't *risk cheating* during an exam.

SAVE: If we buy plenty of food now, it will *save shopping* again next week.

SUGGEST: I *suggest having* a cup of coffee before we leave.

TOLERATE: The teacher won't *tolerate cheating* during an examination.

Possessive adjectives or possessive forms of nouns are often used before gerunds, especially in **formal situations** (some consider this use to be more literary and elegant). In **informal situations** (especially in spoken language), object pronouns, nouns or bare noun phrases are often used before gerunds. Examples:

APPRECIATE: I *appreciate Mary's/Mary going* to the hospital with me; I didn't want to go alone.

DETEST: How I *detest her singing* that song; it brings me unpleasant memories.

FORGIVE: My parents will never *forgive my/me wasting* all the family's fortune.

IMAGINE: I can't *imagine John's/John working* as a bus driver after working as teacher.

LIKE: I don't *like your/you coming* late every night. So you'd better come early tomorrow.

MIND: Do you *mind their/them coming* too? I have invited them to join us.

PREVENT: Nothing can *prevent John's/John talking* in class; he can't be silent for a minute.

UNDERSTAND: We really cannot *understand your doing* something like that. You're a sensible person!

## **VI) VERBS FREQUENTLY FOLLOWED BY EITHER INFINITIVES (WITH "TO") OR GERUNDS**

ADVISE: The teacher *advised studying* hard.  
The teacher *advised us to study* hard.

ALLOW: The teacher does not *allow smoking* in class.

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<sup>13</sup>**Mind + gerund** is chiefly used in interrogative and negative sentences.

- The teacher does not *allow us to smoke* in class.
- ATTEMPT: Jane *attempted cheating* during the exam.  
Jane *attempted to cheat* during the exam.
- BEGIN: We *began studying* at 8 last night.  
We *began to study* at 8 last night.
- CONTINUE: John *continued being* lazy despite my advice.  
John *continued to be* lazy despite my advice.
- DISLIKE: Mary *dislikes dancing* in the streets; it's dangerous.  
Mary *dislikes to dance* in the streets; it's dangerous.
- DREAD: Almost everybody *dreads going* to the dentist.  
Almost everybody *dreads to go* to the dentist.
- FORGET: I *forgot putting* gas in the car this morning.  
(I put gas in the car this morning, then I forgot that I had done it.)  
I *forgot to put* gas in the car this morning; now the tank is empty.  
(I forgot that the car needed gas.)
- HATE: I *hate getting up* early on Sundays.  
I *hate to get up* early on Sundays.
- INTEND: My parents *intend leaving* this afternoon.  
My parents *intend to leave* afternoon.
- LOVE: Some children *love being* naughty.  
Some children *love to be* naughty.
- LIKE: My wife *likes going* to the movies.  
My wife *likes to go* to the movies.
- NEGLECT: My uncle went bankrupt because he *neglected looking after* his business.  
My uncle went bankrupt because he *neglected to look after* his business.
- PLAN: My mother *plans (on) having* surgery in December.  
My mother *plans to have* surgery in December.
- PERMIT: Our teacher does not *permit smoking* in class.  
Our teacher does not *permit anyone to smoke* in class.
- PREFER: Sheila *prefers dancing to drinking*.  
Sheila *prefers to dance than to drink*.
- PROPOSE: Michael *proposed*<sup>14</sup> *starting* at twelve so that we could finish earlier.  
Michael *proposed to start* at twelve so that he could finish earlier.
- START: The police *started searching* for the criminal.  
The police *started to search* for the criminal.
- REGRET: Many people *regret not having* studied when they were young.  
Many people *regret not to have* studied when they were young.
- REMEMBER: I can't *remember putting* gas this morning.  
(I cannot recall the act of putting gas this morning.)  
Did you *remember to pick up* the clothes from the cleaner's?  
(Did you remember to do the act of picking up the clothes?)
- STOP: George *stopped drinking* two years ago.  
(George no longer drinks.)  
George *stopped to drink* some coffee.  
(George stopped what he was doing in order to drink some coffee.)
- TRY: Some students *tried cheating*, but it did not work.

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<sup>14</sup>Propose + gerund means 'suggest'.

Please *try solving* the problem by yourself. (= experiment)  
Some students *tried to cheat*, but it did not work.

**VII) VERBS FOLLOWED BY A NOUN, A NOUN PHRASE OR AN OBJECT PRONOUN PLUS AN INFINITIVE (WITH “TO”):**

ADVISE: The teacher *advised us to review* for the examination.  
ALLOW: The teacher doesn't *allow us to smoke* in the classroom.  
ASK: The teacher *asked us to write* a report on AIDS.  
BEG: I *begged John to take* me the movies, but he refused.  
CAUSE: Flowers *cause some people to sneeze*.  
CHALLENGE: Sean *challenged David to cross* the river in five minutes.  
COMPEL: I cannot *compel you to study*; you are already adults and know what you do.  
COMMAND: The colonel *commanded the soldiers to stand* at attention.  
ENABLE: His support *enabled us to complete* our project.  
ENCOURAGE: Our teacher usually *encourages us to study* every day.  
EXPECT:<sup>15</sup> I *expect all of you to pass* this course with high grades.  
FORBID: My mother *forbade me to go out* at night; she says it's dangerous.  
FORCE: The thieves *forced her to hand in* all her belongings.  
GET: The manager *got John to resign*; now he is unemployed.  
HATE: I'd *hate my wife to know* about my previous love affairs.<sup>16</sup>  
HELP: Stephen *helped me to solve* the math problems.  
HIRE: I *hired ten men to build* my house quickly.  
INSTRUCT: The secretary *instructed me to complete* the form before I left.  
INTEND: My wife *intends me to become* a doctor.  
INVITE: The committee *invited all the members to participate* in the discussions.  
LIKE: I would *like you to come* for dinner tomorrow.  
LOVE: I'd *love you to go*<sup>17</sup> with to the dance tonight.  
MEAN: I didn't *mean you to think* you're wrong.  
ORDER: Because the player didn't respect the umpire, the umpire *ordered the player to leave* the game.  
PERMIT: I cannot *permit you to do* that to your children.  
PERSUADE: Gladys finally *persuaded her boyfriend to go* to the dance with her.  
PREFER: Mary *prefers you to dance* with her.  
REMIND: Please *remind me to pay* the electricity bill before October 12.  
REQUEST: His friends *requested him to join* their club.  
REQUIRE: The test *required us to know* all about reported speech.  
TEACH: My mother *taught me (how) to dance* pasodobles.  
TELL: The teacher *told us to come* at seven tomorrow.  
TEMPT: The offer of a good job *tempted him to leave* school.  
URGE: The doctor *urged my father to rest* for a while.  
WANT: I *want you to go* to town with me, nobody else.

<sup>15</sup>**Expect + personal object pronoun + inf.** may, on the one hand, express a thought about the future, but it can also mean 'I think it is your/his/her, etc. duty to do something' or 'I'll be annoyed if you don't do something'.

<sup>16</sup>This use of **hate + obj. pron/noun + inf.** is used mainly in colloquial English.

<sup>17</sup>**Love + obj. pron./noun + inf.** is used mainly in colloquial English.

WARN: The teacher *warned the students not to cheat* during the exam.  
WISH: I *wish Martha to meet* my parents when she visits my hometown.  
WILL: The crowd was cheering her, *willing<sup>18</sup> her to win*.

**VIII) VERBS FOLLOWED BY A NOUN, A NOUN PHRASE OR AN OBJECT PRONOUN PLUS AN INFINITIVE (WITHOUT “TO”)<sup>19</sup> (Verbs of causing)**

BID: The doctor *bade* (= commanded) me hold out my tongue.  
HAVE: I *had* (= caused) *the barber cut* my hair.  
HELP: My mother *helped me write* the project.  
LET: Please *let* (= permit) *me go* with you.  
MAKE: The teacher *made* (= forced; caused) *us do<sup>20</sup>* the exercise twice.

**IX) VERBS FOLLOWED BY A NOUN, A NOUN PHRASE OR AN OBJECT PRONOUN PLUS A PRESENT PARTICIPLE<sup>21</sup> OR AN INFINITIVE (WITHOUT “TO”) (Verbs of sense or perception)<sup>22</sup>**

HEAR: We *heard John sing* at the concert.  
          We *heard John singing* at the concert.  
FEEL: Everyone *felt the weather become* warm.  
          Everyone *felt the weather becoming* warm.  
OBSERVE: The medical students *observed the surgeon perform* the operation.  
          The medical students *observed the surgeon performing* the operation.  
SEE: Mary *saw me break* the furniture.  
          Mary *saw me breaking* the furniture.  
SMELL: We *smelled the fish fry*.  
          We *smelled the fish frying*.  
WATCH: I *watched the bird make* its nest.  
          I *heard the bird making* its nest.

Note: The following verbs are usually followed by present participles.

CATCH: I *caught my students cheating* during the exam.  
FIND: My father *found Paul and me shoveling* the snow.

**X) EXPRESSIONS FOLLOWED BY INFINITIVES:<sup>23</sup>**

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<sup>18</sup>Will here means ‘to try to make something happen or to make somebody or oneself do something by using one’s mental powers.’

<sup>19</sup>The infinitive without “to” is also called the **bare infinitive** or the **simple form** of the verb.

<sup>20</sup>In the passive, however, the infinitive is used after **make** “We were *made to do* the exercise twice.”

<sup>21</sup>In some books you will find that the present participle is incorrectly referred to as the gerund.

<sup>22</sup>The construction with the gerund indicates that we perceived only part of the action in progress; we did not perceive either its beginning or its end. The construction with the infinitive denotes that you perceived all the action, from beginning to end.

<sup>23</sup>Some of these expressions must have the impersonal pronoun **it** as their subject; some require a personal pronoun (i.e., **I, you, he, she, we, they**) as their subject.

- BE ADVISABLE: *It is not advisable to invest* in automobiles; you may have accidents and lose your money easily.
- BE AFRAID: *I am afraid to go out* at night; it's dangerous.
- BE AMAZED: *I am amazed to see* so much poverty in Venezuela.
- BE ANGRY: My father *was angry to learn* that I had wrecked his car.
- BE ANXIOUS: John *is anxious to take* the math test; he thinks he may fail.
- BE ASHAMED: After my lecture, my students *were ashamed to have* played hooky on me.
- BE ASTONISHED: *I was astonished to see* such a terrible accident.
- BE CAREFUL: You must *be careful not to make* the same mistakes again.
- BE CONTENT: *I am content to have* students like you.
- BE DANGEROUS: *It is dangerous to go* out in Caracas at night.
- BE DELIGHTED: We are *delighted to have* you with us.
- BE DETERMINED: The President *was determined to curb* inflation.
- BE DIFFICULT: It is not *difficult to learn* English in Venezuela.
- BE DISAPPOINTED: *I am disappointed to find* the work undone.
- BE EAGER: My children *are eager to see* Disney Land.
- BE EASY: Mary *is easy to please*; she's not a fastidious girl.
- BE FAIR: *It is fair to pay* the working-class higher salaries.
- BE FOOLISH: *It is foolish to invest* in cars; you may lose your money easily.
- BE FORTUNATE: We *are fortunate to have* friends like you.
- BE GLAD: *I am glad to meet* you.
- BE HAPPY: *I am happy to be* with you here.
- BE HARD: *It is hard to live* in Caracas nowadays; it's very dangerous!
- BE HESITANT: John *is hesitant to start* the new project.
- BE JUST: *It is just to give* Simón Bolívar glory and honor.
- BE KIND: *It is very kind of you to visit* us.
- BE LIKELY: *It is likely to rain* today; the sky is cloudy.
- BE LOVELY: *It is lovely to dance* with you.
- BE LUCKY: *I was lucky to find* you home; you're seldom here.
- BE MOTIVATED: My parents *are highly motivated to learn* Chinese; they're visiting Peking next year.
- BE NECESSARY: It is necessary to study hard in order to pass this course with a high grade.
- BE PLEASED: *I am pleased to meet* you, young lady.
- BE POSSIBLE: *It is not possible to fly* to Caracas from Mérida in the evening.
- BE POWERLESS: The Government *is powerless to stop* corruption.
- BE PREPARED: You must *be prepared to take* a test next week.
- BE PROUD: *I am proud to have* you as my guests.
- BE READY: We must *be ready to survive* in worse times.
- BE RELUCTANT: Bobby *is reluctant to have* a haircut; he likes his hair long.
- BE RELIEVED: *I am relieved to learn* that inflation has been curbed.
- BE RIGHT: The teacher *is right not to let* the students smoke in class.
- BE SHOCKED: *I was shocked to see* Mary in a wheelchair.
- BE SILLY: *It is silly to try* to compete with developed countries.
- BE SORRY: *I am sorry to hear* that you failed the test.
- BE STUNNED: *I was stunned to see* John do those tricks.
- BE STUPID: *It is stupid to try* to cheat during an exam.
- BE SURE: John *is sure to succeed* in his studies; he's an industrious person.

BE SURPRISED TO: We *were surprised to see* Tim at the meeting.  
BE UPSET: Paul *was upset to see* his girlfriend dancing with me.  
BE WILLING: I *am willing to help* you if you ask me to.  
BE WRONG: It *is wrong to steal* money from anyone.  
BE TOO + ADJ/ADV.: He *is too young to marry* that woman.  
John works *too slowly to be* much use to me.  
BE + ADJ./ADV. + ENOUGH: Peter *is old enough to travel* alone.  
ENOUGH + NOUN: Peter earns *enough money to live* in a palace.  
BE ABOUT:<sup>24</sup> The show *is about to start*. Please hurry up!  
ONLY: He hurried to the home *only to find* that it was empty.  
BE FIRST, SECOND, LAST, ETC.: John loves parties so much that *he was the first (one/person) to come and the last to go*.  
BE GOOD/KIND, ETC. OF YOU/HIM/HER + INFINITIVE: It *was kind of you to visit* me at the hospital.  
BE + ADJ<sup>25</sup>. + NOUN + INFINITIVE: It *was a stupid idea to come* here at this time.  
THERE IS NOTHING TO DO about corruption; it seems to be part of us.

#### XI) EXPRESSIONS FOLLOWED BY GERUNDS

IT'S NO USE CRYING over spilt milk.  
BE/BECOME/GET USED/ACCUSTOMED TO: I'm *used to getting* up early; so it won't bother me to get up at 4 a.m.  
BE GIVEN TO: She *is given to making* wild accusations.  
BE WORTH: That movie *is worth seeing*; it is about women's role in society.  
CANNOT HELP (= prevent/avoid): My wife *can't help crying* when she says goodbye to her mother.  
CANNOT RESIST: The cake was so good that I *couldn't resist eating* two pieces.  
CANNOT STAND (= endure): I *cannot stand seeing* a person suffer.  
DEVOTE ONESELF TO: Mother Teresa *devoted herself to caring* for the poor.  
DEVOTE SOMETHING TO: I'm *devoting* all my efforts *to being* a good student.  
LOOK FORWARD TO: I'm *looking forward to visiting* the US next year.  
OBJECT TO: Do you *object to my using* your car tonight?  
TAKE TO:<sup>26</sup> Peter *took to ringing* us up in the middle of the night.

#### XII) VERBS AND EXPRESSIONS FOLLOWED BY THE SIMPLE FORM OF THE VERB:

DO/DOES/DID (esp. in negative and interrogative sentences): I *don't need* money now  
CAN/COULD, MAY/MIGHT, WILL/WOULD, MUST, SHALL/SHOULD (Modals): I *can speak* Spanish well, but I'd like to write it well, too.

<sup>24</sup> **Be about + infinitive** expresses immediate future.

<sup>25</sup> Adjectives that can be used here are **amazing, astonishing, crazy, extraordinary, funny (= odd), mad, odd, powerless, queer, ridiculous, rude, strange.**

<sup>26</sup> **Take to** means 'to adopt as a habit, custom or course (= activity).

HAD BETTER, WOULD RATHER: *I'd better hurry*, or I'll miss the train.

*I'd rather not go out* at night; I'll wait till tomorrow.

LET: Let me help you; you mustn't push the car alone.

NEED:<sup>27</sup> You *needn't* wake up early on Sunday; we've already done all the work.

DARE: I *dare not* wake John up now; he'll get furious.

## NOTES:

1. Notice that the sentences that contain verbs followed by infinitives can be negated in two different ways. For example, the negative forms of *I want you to go* are:

a) I do **not** want you to go. (Here 'not' negates the entire predicate.)

b) I want you **not** to go. (Here 'not' negates only 'to go'.)

2. Short answers to questions that contain verbs followed by infinitives can be made in two different ways, as indicated below.

Q: Do you want to go to work here?

A: Yes, I do. or Yes, I want to.

Notice that the second form ends in **to** and it is an elliptical form for 'Yes, I want to work here.' Another example of an ellipsis is: John doesn't study medicine, but he wants to.

3. In general, after prepositions we use the gerund: PREP. + GERUND

E.g., I am tired of working at night. John is thinking of building a house next year.

4. After the verbs COME and GO we often use AND + SIMPLE FORM of the verb, in the imperative.

E.g.,

*Go and help John.*

*Come and help me carry this desk.*

But if **come** and **go** are followed by the verb **see**, the infinitive is usually used. E.g.,

*Come to see me on Tuesday.*

*Go to see the doctor; you have a terrible cough.*

5. BE + INFINITIVE is used to:

a) Convey impersonal orders or instructions (usually in the third person), as in:

No one *is to leave* this building without permission of the police. (= No one must leave.)

b) Convey a plan, as in:

Mary *is to be* married next month.

c) To express remote future, usually a future-in-the-past. In this case **be** + **inf.** means something like 'to be destined to'. E.g.,

He received a blow on the head. It didn't worry him at the time, but it *was to be* very troublesome later. (= it turned out to be or it proved to be troublesome.)

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<sup>27</sup>If **dare** and **need** are preceded by the auxiliaries **do/will/would**, they're followed by the infinitive with 'to'.

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