### Causative Verbs and Infinitive Forms

### Causative Verbs

A **causative verb** describes someone (or something) enabling, causing, or allowing a person (or thing) to do something.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With To-Infinitives</th>
<th>With Bare Infinitives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Cause, get, force, allow, ask, tell, encourage, persuade, convince,</em> and help* are followed by an object and the <strong>to</strong>-infinitive form of a verb.*</td>
<td><em>Let, make, have,</em> and help* are followed by an object and the <strong>bare</strong> infinitive form of a verb.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They persuaded <strong>us</strong> to <strong>join</strong> their group. She <strong>convinced</strong> me to <strong>leave</strong> early. I <strong>asked</strong> the waiter to <strong>bring</strong> a menu.</td>
<td>My parents did not <strong>let</strong> me go to the rock concert. That food <strong>made</strong> my stomach <strong>feel</strong> sick. The teacher <strong>had</strong> me do the sum on the board.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* After help, both **to**-infinitives and bare infinitives are acceptable.  
  - I **helped** them **to move** the sofa. (O)  
  - I **helped** them **move** the sofa. (O)
**Practice 1**

**Exercise 1** Match the sentence parts.

1. My teacher forces me to ____________.
   - a. do chores around her house.
2. Jenny encourages others to ____________.
   - b. to do the dishes after dinner.
3. Kelly can't get her suitcase to ____________.
   - c. to try new things with her.
4. Mark's brother had his friend to ____________.
   - d. help him with his homework.
5. I always help my grandmother to ____________.
   - e. to do my homework.
6. Allen hates it when his mom tells him to ____________.
   - f. to close properly.

**Exercise 2** Circle the correct answers.

1. Did that sad movie we watched (cause / make) you cry?
2. Are you sure I can't (convince / make) you to come with us?
3. Evan's friends (made / persuaded) him to jump into the pool.
4. Sometimes late at night, my father (gets / lets) me drive the car.
5. My teacher is going to (get / have) me take a special math class next month.
6. Evelyn and Cassie are always (letting / asking) us to go shopping with them.
7. My violin teacher (made / convinced) me to practice for two hours every night.
8. Even though Rob doesn't like it, his father always (forces / has) him to go to music lessons after school.
**Practice 2**

**Exercise 1**  
Underline the mistakes. Write the corrections on the lines. If there are no mistakes, write OK.

1. Tomorrow, we will get his friend help us pack the boxes.  
   → to help

2. Every day, David tells me to eat the same thing for lunch.

3. Yesterday, Robert and James let Jenny to beat them in the race.

4. Bad weather caused the airline to cancel many of their flights.

5. Mrs. Lee asked me collect her mail while she was away on a trip.

6. Today, Alex’s father had him to go to the hair stylist with his sister.

**Exercise 2**  
Use the pictures to write sentences with causative verbs.

1.  

2.  

3.  

4.  
Grammar in Use

Exercise 1
Underline the four mistakes in the passage.

Bruce,
I can’t believe what happened to me yesterday! I was walking with Joe, and he persuaded me to play a joke on Michelle. We took her backpack. Then we told her it had been stolen. But we made a mistake and took the wrong bag. The one we took belonged to the teacher’s daughter. The teacher told us to say sorry to her daughter. Then she made us to tell Michelle about the joke. It was really embarrassing. I’ll never let myself to listen to Joe again!

Brian

Exercise 2
Rewrite the incorrect sentences correctly.

1. _______________________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________________

4. _______________________________________________________________
Part B

To-Infinitives as Subjects

Leadership

To lead requires good organization and a clear set of goals. It takes good communication skills for a leader to pass the vision of the goals to others, and it is always important for the leader to inspire his or her followers to work hard for that goal.

Grammar Explanation

To-Infinitives as Subjects

A to-infinitive phrase may be used as the subject of a sentence. When the to-infinitive phrase is long, the sentence begins with it and the infinitive phrase comes at the end of the sentence.

It is unusual to see an owl during the day. It takes time to learn a new language.

To-infinitives can have subjects. The subject of an infinitive is usually preceded by for.

It is worthwhile for people to invest their savings. It is unusual for owls to come out during the day.

The subject of an infinitive after an adjective is sometimes preceded by of. Of is used when the adjective describes the speaker/writer’s opinion of the subject of the infinitive.

It was nice of you to make her a cake. I thought it was rude of Dan to refuse to talk to us.

To-infinitives often follow take and cost. These verbs may or may not take indirect objects.

How long did it take to do the homework? How long did it take her to do the homework? It cost me a lot of money to get a good tutor. It cost a lot to get a good tutor.

A to-infinitive can begin a sentence. This is usually done with short infinitive phrases to give the sentence a more formal feeling.

To ski takes strong legs and good balance. To be kind to others is important.

To make an infinitive negative, add not before to.

• In a fire, it’s important not to panic.
**Exercise 1**

Unscramble the sentences.

1. dollars / lunch. / to buy / lt / four / costs
   → *It costs four dollars to buy lunch.*

2. become / my / is / a sports reporter / dream. / To
   → _______________________________________________________________

3. easy / It’s / a café / this neighborhood. / to find / in
   → _______________________________________________________________

4. irresponsible / It / Laura / the meeting. / to miss / of / was
   → _______________________________________________________________

5. to see / you / again. / for me / would be / It / sad / not
   → _______________________________________________________________

6. eighty years / the championship. / to win / took / the team / It
   → _______________________________________________________________

**Exercise 2**

Make sentences using *it, for, of,* and the given words.

1. rude – teenagers
   → _______________________________________________________________

2. necessary – adults
   → _______________________________________________________________

3. unfortunate – a child
   → _______________________________________________________________

4. important – president
   → _______________________________________________________________
**Practice 2**

**Exercise 1**  
Rewrite the sentences so that they begin with infinitive phrases.

1. It costs about eight dollars to see a movie.  
   → **To see a movie costs about eight dollars.**

2. It is a big responsibility for a child to have a pet.  
   → __________________________________________

3. It takes a while to get to school in the morning.  
   → __________________________________________

4. It is strange for our boss to take us out for dinner.  
   → __________________________________________

5. It is not shameful to make a mistake once in a while.  
   → __________________________________________

6. It is quite surprising for Jessica to be late for an appointment.  
   → __________________________________________

**Exercise 2**  
Complete the sentences with your own information. Begin each sentence with *It*.

1. ____________ to hear my friend sing.

2. ____________ not to do your homework.

3. ____________ one dollar to take the bus.

4. ____________ of people to use their phones during a movie.

5. ____________ not to stand up for what you believe.

6. ____________ for me to help do chores around the house.
Grammar in Use

Exercise 1 Complete the conversation with the words from the box.

Man: OK, how do we get to your house?
Woman: Well, finding my house is pretty easy. It takes about twenty minutes 1 ________________ there from here. Start by taking Orchard Road for about fifteen minutes. It is important for you 2 ________________ slowly because there is a school nearby. It’s unusual for there 3 ________________ children playing in the street, but be careful. It is also important for you 4 ________________ to the big gray wall on your left because you have to turn right on the street after the wall. After turning, go to the end of the street.
Man: OK, let’s go!

Exercise 2 Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1. It takes around ________________________________.

2. It is important for ________________________________.

3. It is also important for ________________________________.

4. It’s easy ________________________________.
Q: Why should you be admitted to Tiger College?

Even though there are many other opportunities for me, I want to attend Tiger College. Ever since I was a small child, my father has expected me to work my hardest so that I could go to the best college. I did well on my tests and refused to settle for number two in my class. Now I hope to study under the guidance of Tiger’s world-renowned faculty. I will be delighted to start classes this fall, and I promise to maintain my high work ethic.

**Grammar Explanation**

### To-Infinitives in Predicates

A **to-infinitive** can be placed in several different positions within a sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>A to-infinitive</strong> can come after the linking verbs <em>be, seem,</em> and <em>appear</em> as a subject complement.</th>
<th>Michael seems to know a lot about literature. The city appears to have a problem with pollution.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A to-infinitive</strong> can come after certain verbs as the direct object. These verbs include: <em>begin, choose, claim, decide, expect, learn, like, love, manage, offer, plan, prefer, promise, refuse, start, try, want, wish.</em></td>
<td>They wanted to stay for a few extra days. We are learning to speak Italian.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A to-infinitive</strong> can come after the objects of certain verbs. These verbs include: <em>ask, convince, expect, help, order, persuade, remind, teach, tell.</em></td>
<td>Parents teach kids to say please and thank you. I expected them to be home before midnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A to-infinitive</strong> can come after certain adjectives. These adjectives include: <em>amazed, ashamed, disappointed, excited, glad, happy, likely, pleased, ready, reluctant, sad, shocked, sorry, surprised, upset, willing.</em></td>
<td>I’m not quite ready to leave the house yet. He will be disappointed not to see you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 1

Unscramble the sentences.

1. off / forgot / to / Peter / oven. / the / turn
   → Peter forgot to turn off the oven.

2. seems / with / to be / This store / popular / teenagers.
   →

3. embarrassed / are going / the play. / We / to be / to act / in
   →

4. to travel / the world. / around / Jenny's / planning / sister / is
   →

5. information / allows / to get / The Internet / us / anywhere. / from
   →

6. to give me / my teacher / less / My mother / persuaded / homework.
   →

Exercise 2

Combine the sentence pairs using infinitives.

1. She was very nervous. She flew for the first time.
   → She was very nervous to fly for the first time.

2. I think Anya is lucky. She does not have any brothers.
   →

3. After the airplane landed, I was so excited. I saw my grandparents.
   →

4. I expect to have a good job when I grow up. I am going to be a doctor.
   →

5. The president promised something. He will listen to the citizens’ problems.
   →

6. After not eating all day, my brother will need food. He will eat a big dinner.
   →
Exercise 1
Choose the best answers.

1. She really ________ to like her new boyfriend.
   a. prefers  b. appears  c. agrees  d. decides

2. Hollywood actors are always eager ________ for the camera.
   a. to fly  b. to sneeze  c. to smile  d. to sleep

3. It was fun watching the baby horse ________ to walk for the first time.
   a. attempt  b. promise  c. agree  d. remind

4. We are ________ to announce that our school has won a national award.
   a. sorry  b. shocked  c. proud  d. careful

5. “I am sorry, I can’t ________ to ignore it any longer. You have food on your face.”
   a. wish  b. deserve  c. learn  d. pretend

6. My father always reminds me that he ________ me to lose when we play basketball against each other.
   a. expects  b. plans  c. determines  d. agrees

Exercise 2
Use the pictures to write sentences with infinitives.

1. _______________________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________________

4. _______________________________________________________________
Exercise 1  Complete the passage with the words from the box.

try  excited  to go  to be  seems  remind

My daily life 1 ___________ to be pretty boring. Every day, I go to school and listen to my teachers talk about the same thing. After school, I am 2 ______________ to meet my friends so we can go play soccer. But I leave around six because my mom expects me 3 ______________ home for dinner. After that, my parents 4 ______________ me to do my homework. I 5 ______________ to finish it early, but I usually stop and take a nap. When I wake up, it’s usually around ten, and I still have more work to do. I’m lucky 6 ______________ to bed by twelve!

Exercise 2  Complete the sentences with your own information.

1. Every day, I am happy ____________________________.

2. Every day, I am amazed ____________________________.

3. Every day, my parents require me ____________________________.

4. After I come home from school, I want ____________________________.
**To-Infinitives with Too, Enough, and In Order**

**Too much/many + noun + to-infinitive** shows that an amount is excessive for a certain purpose (i.e., that there is more than a person would want or like).

- I have too much work to do today. (object)
  (= I have to do too much work today.)
- She has too many presents to buy. (object)
  (= She has to buy too many presents.)

- There is too much noise to talk here. (not object)
  I’ve failed too many quizzes to get a good grade. (not object)

**Too + adjective/adverb + to-infinitive** shows that the quality described by the adjective/adverb is excessive for a certain purpose.

- I’m too tired to do any work.
  They’re too busy to have any hobbies.

**Enough + noun + to-infinitive** shows that an amount is sufficient for a certain purpose (i.e., that no more of that quality or amount is needed).

- There aren’t enough plates to serve everyone.
  We had enough time to finish the project.

**Adjective/Adverb + enough + to-infinitive** shows that a quality or quantity is sufficient for a certain purpose.

- He’s not fast enough to play for the team.
  Do you practice often enough to improve?

**In order + to-infinitive** shows purpose. A to-infinitive by itself can also show purpose. Using a comma, the infinitive of purpose can precede the main clause. It can also follow the main clause. When it follows the main clause, there is no comma.

- In order to pass the test, I studied hard.
  I studied hard in order to pass the test.
- To avoid traffic, my father drove down Oak Street.
  My father drove down Oak Street to avoid traffic.
Practice 1

Exercise 1

Match the sentence parts.

1. He weighs too much  •  a. to buy a ticket to Canada.
2. In order to fly a kite,  •  b. in order to get my work done.
3. I need to wake up early tomorrow  •  c. to make sure I don’t get thirsty.
4. My friend hates performing too much  •  d. to sit on the baby’s swing.
5. She doesn’t have nearly enough money  •  e. it must be a windy day.
6. When hiking, I always take enough water  •  f. to become a great pianist.

Exercise 2

Complete the sentences with too much, too many, or enough.

1. There are ______ too many cars on the road to drive home quickly.
2. My parents sent me ____________ chocolate to eat all by myself.
3. Luckily, Gary had just ______________ money to catch the subway home.
4. Is it warm ______________ to sleep in your room, or should I turn on the heater?
5. Jenny feels that there is ______________ pressure on her to perform well in school.
6. The actress who won the award said she had ______________ people to thank in a one-minute speech.
7. During the busiest times in the supermarket, there are ______________ customers for one cashier to handle.
8. Emily doesn’t have ______________ time to go to all her after-school classes and finish her homework.
Exercise 1

Combine the sentence pairs using *in order* + *to*-infinitive. Do not change the order of the sentences.

1. You must be creative. You want to write novels.
   → You must be creative *in order to* write novels.

2. I often go to this website. I download movies and TV shows.

3. Alex wants to buy his girlfriend a bracelet. Alex will need to get a job.

4. You want to see all of Paris. You must climb to the top of the Eiffel Tower.

5. After doing poorly on my exam, I must have a good interview. I want to get into a good college.

6. Paolo kept his sister from telling their parents that he broke the vase. Paolo cleaned her room for a month.

Exercise 2

Use the pictures to write sentences with *too*, *enough*, and *in order to*.

1. ____________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________________________
Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with *too, enough, or in order to*.

1. **In order to** make the best chocolate chip cookies, follow these easy steps:
   - Get your flour, baking soda, and salt and mix them together. Be sure to add **baking soda**, or your cookies will look like crackers.
   - Next, make sure to add **sugar** and vanilla to make your cookies sweet, and mix them together along with the flour and a couple of eggs.
   - After that, stir in the chocolate chips evenly **avoid** some cookies having **many chips** and some cookies having too few.
   - Then put your dough in the refrigerator for ten minutes **let** the baking soda rise. This way, your cookies won’t be flat.
   - Next, preheat your oven to 350 degrees, and put spoonfuls of cookie dough onto a cookie sheet. Make them fairly thin so that they’re not **thick** to bake all the way through.
   - Finally, put your cookies into the oven. Be sure you’ve allowed **time for the oven to preheat**.
   - After ten minutes, take the cookies out of the oven and enjoy them!

Exercise 2

Answer the questions about the above reading.

1. In order to make these cookies, what ingredients do you need?
   - ____________________________________________________________

2. Why is it important to stir the chips in evenly?
   - ____________________________________________________________

3. Why must you put the dough in the refrigerator?
   - ____________________________________________________________

4. Why should you make your cookies fairly thin?
   - ____________________________________________________________
Part E  Review

Exercise 1  Unscramble the sentences.

1. successful / It / hard work / to / takes / become
   → It takes hard work to become successful.

2. let / bike / use / him / my / l / never agreed / to
   → ________________________________________________

3. mother / buy / shoes / to / My / promised / for me.
   → ________________________________________________

4. finish / homework / sister / l / help / her / will / my
   → ________________________________________________

5. cruel / to leave / is / of him / It / his dog / all day / alone
   → ________________________________________________

6. the author / It / finish / book / to / his / for / three years / took
   → ________________________________________________

Exercise 2  Using infinitives, write complete sentences with the given words and tenses.

1. (present) I – too tired
   → ________________________________________________

2. (past) We – invite – our friends
   → ________________________________________________

3. (future) He – not have – enough – cake
   → ________________________________________________

4. (past) In order – catch – friend – he – run
   → ________________________________________________
Exercise 3

Circle two mistakes in each sentence. Then rewrite the sentences correctly.

1. I'm study French order to go to Paris.
   →

2. Mark wanted her help he with his homework.
   →

3. She doesn't got a high enough score pass the test.
   →

4. Yesterday, Peter asks his friend go with him to the doctor’s office.
   →

Quick Check

Rewrite the sentences in the passive voice.

1. Someone made Steve give up eating junk food.
   →

2. Someone helped Vera cheat on the exam.
   →

3. The nurse will ask you to roll up your sleeve.
   →

4. Someone encouraged Rosa to try writing poetry.
   →

Further Learning

Causative Verbs in the Passive Voice

Most causative verbs* can be used in the passive voice. When passive, they are always followed by a to-infinitive. This includes make and help, which are normally followed by a bare infinitive in the active voice.

(*Let and have are the exceptions. They are never passive.)

- Did the storm force him to stay inside?  → Was he forced to stay inside (by the storm)?
- Someone will make John apologize. → John will be made to apologize.
- Someone helped her climb the tree.  → She was helped to climb the tree.