Verbs Followed by the Infinitive

Long-established custom says that certain verbs are followed by the infinitive, the simple form of the verb.

Example:

The guest offered to help (infinitive) his host.

We happened to see (infinitive) the accident.

Among the verbs followed immediately by to and the infinitive are those listed below:

agree
happen
offer
arrange
hesitate
plan
begin
hope
pretend
decide
intend
proceed
endeavour
learn
refuse
expect
need
seem
fail
neglect
want

Certain verbs are followed first by a noun or pronoun and then by to and the infinitive.

Example:

The speaker urged (v) his listeners (n or p) to vote (infin).

Our hostess invited (v) us (n or p) to enter (infin).

Among the verbs followed first by a noun or pronoun and then by to and the infinitive are those listed below:

advise
hire
*promise
allow
instruct
remind
*ask
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invite

teach

courage

permit

tell
*beg

persuade

urge
*force
*prepare
*want

* These verbs can also be followed directly by the infinitive.
Exercises

Print out the following exercise to complete it.

**Verbs followed directly by the infinitive.**

Complete the following paragraphs.

Even though you may consider your spoken English poor, never hesitate to . . . Never fail to . . . Never refuse to . . . Whenever you are invited to a Canadian social event, agree to . . .

Even though you are lucky enough to have several fellow countrymen in class, decide not to . . . Take the lead in getting them to agree to . . .

Suggest that each person in the group arrange not to . . . When the instructor gives an explanation, endeavour to . . .

If you fail to . . . Never pretend to . . . Ask the instructor additional questions, and he will gladly offer to . . .

If you act upon the suggestions given above, you may hope to . . . You may reasonably expect to . . . Suddenly English will seem to . . . In fact, all day long you will want to . . .
Verbs followed by a noun or pronoun and to plus the infinitive.

Print out the following exercise to complete it.

Complete the following paragraphs.

Everyone had something to say when Haruko’s parents announced that they would allow her _________ to Canada to study.

Her high school principal advised her _________ some review lessons in English before she left Japan. The principal encouraged her _________ about advanced work in her own field. He did not try to force her _________ anything. He did instruct her _________ advantage of the fine library in her new college.

Her father permitted her _________ a bank account. Friends of the family in Canada invited Haruko _________ them. Her best friend reminded her _________ . She told her grandmother not _________ . She persuaded her not _________ sad.