

Verb + to . . . (decide to do / forget to do, etc.)

A

offer	decide	hope	deserve	attempt	mean	promise
agree	plan	aim	afford	manage	intend	threaten
refuse	arrange	learn	need	fail	forget	

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

- It was late, so we decided to take a taxi home.
- David was in a difficult situation, so I agreed to lend him some money.
- How old were you when you learned to drive? (or learned how to drive)
- Karen failed to make a good impression at the job interview.

Note these examples with the negative *not to*:

- We decided not to go out because of the weather.
- I promised not to be late.

With many verbs you cannot normally use *to* – for example, *enjoy/think/suggest*:

- I enjoy dancing. (*not* enjoy to dance)
- Sam suggested going to the movies. (*not* suggested to go)
- Are you thinking of buying a car? (*not* thinking to buy)

For *verb + -ing*, see Unit 50. For *verb + preposition + -ing*, see Unit 59.

B

We also use *to . . .* after: *seem appear tend pretend claim*. For example:

- They seem to have plenty of money.
- I like Dan, but he tends to talk too much.
- Ann pretended not to see me when she passed me on the street.

There is also a *continuous infinitive* (*to be doing*) and a *perfect infinitive* (*to have done*):

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

C

We say *decide to do* (something), *promise to do* (something), etc. In the same way, we say a *decision to do* (something), a *promise to do* (something), etc. (*noun + to*):

- I think his decision to quit his job was foolish.
- John has a tendency to talk too much.

D

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

- I wouldn't dare to tell him. or I wouldn't dare tell him.

E

After the following verbs you can use a question word (*what/whether/how*, etc.) + *to . . .* :
ask decide know remember forget explain learn understand wonder







We asked	how	to get	to the station.
Have you decided	where	to go	for your vacation?
I don't know	whether	to apply	for the job or not.
Do you understand	what	to do?	

Also: *show/tell/ask/advise/teach* somebody *what/how/where* to do something:

- Can somebody show me how to change the film in this camera?
- Ask Jeff. He'll tell you what to do.

Exercises

51.1 Complete the sentence for each situation.

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Shall we get married? |  | Yes. | They decided <i>to get married</i> . |
| 2. | Please help me. |  | OK. | She agreed _____. |
| 3. | Can I carry your bags for you? |  | No, thanks. I can manage. | He offered _____. |
| 4. | Let's meet at 8:00. |  | OK, fine. | They arranged _____. |
| 5. | What's your name? |  | I'm not going to tell you. | She refused _____. |
| 6. | Please don't tell anyone. |  | I won't. I promise. | She promised _____. |

51.2 Put the verb into the correct form, to ... or -ing. (See Unit 50 for verb + -ing.)

- When I'm tired, I enjoy *watching* TV. It's relaxing. (watch)
- It was a nice day, so we decided _____ for a walk. (go)
- There was a lot of traffic, but we managed _____ to the airport in time. (get)
- I'm not in a hurry. I don't mind _____. (wait)
- They don't have much money. They can't afford _____ out very often. (go)
- We've got a new computer in our office. I haven't learned how _____ it yet. (use)
- I wish that dog would stop _____. It's driving me crazy. (bark)
- Our neighbor threatened _____ the police if we didn't stop the noise. (call)
- We were hungry, so I suggested _____ dinner early. (have)
- We were all afraid to speak. Nobody dared _____ anything. (say)
- Hurry up! I don't want to risk _____ the train. (miss)
- I'm still looking for a job, but I hope _____ something soon. (find)

51.3 Make a new sentence using the verb in parentheses.

- He has lost weight. (seem) *He seems to have lost weight.*
- Tom is worried about something. (appear) Tom appears _____.
- You know a lot of people. (seem) You _____.
- My English is getting better. (seem) _____.
- That car has broken down. (appear) _____.
- David forgets things. (tend) _____.
- They have solved the problem. (claim) _____.

51.4 Complete each sentence using *what/how/whether* + one of these verbs:

do get go ride say use

- Do you know *how to get* _____ to John's house?
- Can you show me _____ this washing machine?
- Would you know _____ if there was a fire in the building?
- You'll never forget _____ a bicycle once you have learned.
- I was really astonished. I didn't know _____.
- I've been invited to the party, but I don't know _____ or not.