Adjective + to . . .

A

Hard to understand, etc.

Compare sentences (a) and (b):

- Jim doesn't speak very clearly.
- (a) It is hard to understand him .
- (b) He is hard to understand

Sentences (a) and (b) have the same meaning. But note that we say:

He is hard to understand. (not He is hard to understand him)

You can use the structures in the box with:

difficult easy hard impossible dangerous safe expensive cheap nice interesting and a number of other adjectives:

- Do you think it is safe to drink this water? Do you think this water is safe to drink? (not to drink it)
- Your handwriting is awful. It is impossible to read it. (= to read your writing)
 Your handwriting is impossible to read. (not to read it)
- I like spending time with Jill. It's very interesting to talk to her. Jill is very interesting to talk to. (not to talk to her)

You can also use this structure with an adjective + noun:

This is a difficult question (for me) to answer. (not to answer it)

В

It's nice of you to . . .

You can use this structure to say what you think of what somebody does:

It was nice of you to take me to the airport. Thank you very much.

You can use many other adjectives in this way. For example:

careless clever considerate foolish generous kind mean silly stupid unfair

- It's foolish of Mary to quit her job when she needs the money.
- I think it was very unfair of him to criticize me.

C

I'm sorry to . . .

You can use this structure to say how somebody reacts to something:

I was sorry to hear that your father is sick.

You can use many other adjectives in this way. For example: happy glad pleased delighted sad disappointed surprised amazed astonished relieved

- Was Tom surprised to see you when you went to see him?
- We were glad to get your letter last week.

D

The first (person) to know, the next train to arrive

We use to . . . after the first/second/third, etc., and also after the next, the last, the only:

- If I have any more news, you will be the first (person) to know.
- The next plane to arrive at gate 4 will be Flight 268 from Bogotá.
- Everybody was late except me. I was the only one to arrive on time.

Exercises

+ noun + to, as in the example (see Section A). 1. I couldn't answer the question. (difficult) It was _a difficult question to answer 2. Everybody makes that mistake. (easy) It's an 3. I like living in this place. (nice) It's a 4. We enjoyed watching the game. (good) It was 62.3 Make a new sentence beginning It (see Section B). Use one of these adjectives each time: careless considerate kind nice 1. Sue offered to help me. It was kind of Sue to offer to help me. 2. You make the same mistake again and again. It 3. Don and Jenny invited me to stay with them. 4. John made a lot of noise when I was trying to sleep. It wasn't very 62.4 Use the following words to complete these sentences (see Section C): glad/hear pleased/get sorry/hear surprised/sec 1. We were pleased to get your letter last week. 2. Thank you for your letter. I that you're doing well. 3. We Jennifer at the party. We didn't expect her to come. 4. I Jennifer at the party. We didn't expect her to come. 4. I Lery body left before me. (the first) I was the first person to leave 2. Everybody else arrived before Paul. (the last) Paul was the		Write these sentences in another way (see Section A).	62.1
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