

Verb + “to” infinitive, verb + -ing form, verb + object + “to”, verb + that

I. Verbs and patterns following them

II. Verbs followed by different patterns

III. Common mistakes

I. Verbs and patterns following them

The following table is not exhaustive; it gives the most common verbs and patterns used in academic English.

Verb	+ “to” infinitive	+ -ing form	+ object + “to”	+ that
admit		x		x
advise		x	x	x ¹
agree	x			x, x ¹
allow			x	
allow (= admit)				x
appear	x			x
ask	x		x	
assume			x	x
attempt	x			
avoid		x		
begin	x	x		
cause			x	
choose	x		x	
commence	x	x		
consider		x	x	
continue	x	x		
decide	x			x, x ¹
delay		x		
demand	x			x ¹
deny		x		x
enable			x	
encourage			x	
expect	x		x	x
fail	x			
finish		x		
forget	x	x		x
hate	x	x		
hope	x			x
imagine		x	x	x
instruct			x	
intend	x	x	x	
invite			x	
involve		x		
learn	x			x

like	x	x		
love	x	x		
manage	x			
mean	x	x	x	x
mention		x		x
mind		x		
offer	x			
order			x	x ¹
permit			x	
plan	x			
postpone		x		
practise		x		
prefer	x	x	x	
promise	x			x
propose		x		x ¹
recommend		x		x ¹
refuse	x			
regret	x	x		x
remember	x	x		x
request			x	x ¹
require		x	x	x ¹
risk		x		
seem	x			x
start	x	x		
stop	x	x		
suggest		x		x, x ¹
suppose			x	x
teach			x	
tell			x	
train	x		x	
try	x	x		
want	x		x	

Examples:

verb + “to” infinitive:

*The secretary **failed to** tell me about the meeting.*

verb + the -ing form:

*At last he **finished writing** his report.*

verb + object + “to” infinitive:

*They **asked us to** help them.*

verb + that:

*He **admitted that** he was wrong. (x)*

*Everybody **agreed that** the plan (**should**) be changed. (x¹)*

Notes:

- The **position of “not”** changes the meaning.

*The project manager **did not** ask him to do the experiment.*

(= ... ho nežádal, aby ...)

*The project manager asked him **not to** do the experiment.*

(= žádal ho, aby nedělal ...)

- **verb + object + “to” infinitive**

The Czech structure:

(subject) + verb, aby (subject) + verb
(Já) chci, aby (on) přišel.

The English structure:

subject + verb + object + infinitive
I want him to come.

- The **verbs marked x¹** are followed by **that + should + infinitive/subjunctive** (the same form as the infinitive for all persons). In most cases, they can be used in other ways, too (see the table above).

The editor decided that the paper (should) be accepted.

The editor decided to accept the paper.

They decided that they would start early.

II. Verbs followed by different patterns

1. With some verbs, **different patterns** can be used **with no change in meaning**.

a) appear, seem

It seems that this problem has no solution. (2 subjects)

This problem seems to have no solution. (1 subject)

b) begin, commence, continue, start

They started to work on the project a year ago.

They started working on the project a year ago.

2. With other verbs **the meaning differs**.

a) agree

They agreed that the situation was serious. (= shodli se, že situace je vážná)

They agreed that something should be done about the situation. (= shodli se, že by se mělo ...)

They agreed to do something about the situation.

(= dohodli se s tou situací něco udělat)

b) consider

He seriously considered starting his own company. (= vážně zvažoval založení)

We consider a further increase in the price of petrol (to be) likely. (= považujeme další vzestup cen benzínu za pravděpodobný)

c) forget, remember

I forgot to tell him about the meeting. (= zapomněl jsem mu říci o)

I forgot telling/having told him about the meeting. (= zapomněl jsem, že jsem mu o té schůzi řekl)

Remember to lock the door. (= nezapomeň zamknout .../Pamatuj si, že máš zamknout ..)

I remember locking the door. (= pamatuji si, že jsem zamkl)

d) learn

I learned to drive when I was 16. (= naučil jsem se řídit ...)

We have learned that the information is not true. (= dozvěděli jsme se, že)

e) like, love, prefer, hate (there is little or no difference)

I like reading. (= rád čtu – vždy)

I like to read a good detective story before going to bed. (= rád si přečtu – v určité situaci)

f) mean

This means that something has gone wrong. (= to znamená, že)

If you take this course, that will mean working very hard. (= bude to znamenat, že budeš muset)

I didn't mean to offend you. (= nechtěl jsem/neměl jsem v úmyslu)

I didn't mean this to happen. (= nechtěl jsem/neměl jsem v úmyslu, aby)

g) regret

We regret to inform you that your application has not been successful. (= s lítostí vám sdělujeme, že)

I regret that I didn't go to that conference. (= lituji, že)

I regret leaving school so young. (= lituji, že)

h) stop

He stopped to read the announcement on the noticeboard. (= zastavil se, aby)

He stopped attending the lectures. (= přestal docházet na přednášky)

i) suggest

He suggested that we (should) start early. (= navrhl, abychom)

He suggested starting early.

The results suggest that our hypothesis was right. (= výsledky naznačují, že)

j) try

Try to repeat the experiment. (= zkus/pokus se)

Try using another method this time. (= zkus/vyzkoušej)

III. Common mistakes

- Using **an object together with "to" infinitive** after **offer, promise, suggest**.

Nabídl mi, že mi pomůže.

Wrong: *He offered me to help (me).*

Right: *He **offered** to help (me).*

He offered me help .(= nabídl mi pomoc)

Slíbil mi, že přijde.

Wrong: *He promised me to come.*

Right: *He **promised** to come.*

Navrhl mi, že tam půjdeme zítra.

Wrong: *He suggested me that we (should) go there tomorrow.*

Right: *He **suggested** that we (should) go there tomorrow.*

He suggested going there tomorrow.

- Confusing **the preposition “to”** with **“to” used with the infinitive**.

Wrong: *I look forward to hear from you.* Right: *I look forward to hearing from you.*

EXERCISES

I. Translate into English.

1. Kdy očekáváš, že se vrátí?

.....

2. Požádal studenty, aby odevzdali laboratorní zprávy do pátku.

.....

3. Jsem si jist, že zvolí Johna za předsedu.

.....

4. Poradil nám, abychom se připojili k projektu.

.....

5. Doktor mu nařídil, aby zůstal v posteli.

.....

6. Děkan nás pozval, abychom se zúčastnili té schůze.

.....

7. Rodiče ho povzbuzovali, aby se učil anglicky.

.....

8. Laboratorní technik nás instruoval, abychom používali ochranné rukavice.

.....

9. Předpokládám, že jste všichni dobře připraveni na test.

.....

10. Účastníci konference se musí (= se žádají) zaregistrovat do 4 odpoledne.

.....

11. Dal bych přednost tomu, aby se zkouška odložila na pozdější datum.

.....

II. Make the sentences (1. to 9.) in Exercise I passive.

Example: They told him to stay at home.

He was told to stay at home.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

III. Tick the right words. In some cases both options are possible.

1. On my way to the Faculty I stopped *collecting/to collect* some books from the library.

2. Have you considered *changing/to change* the topic of your thesis?

3. We regret *informing/to inform* you that your paper has not been accepted.

4. They continued *debating/to debate* the issue for over an hour.
5. Did you manage *finding/to find* that monograph in the library?
6. I meant *telling /to tell* you about the change in the programme, but I forgot.
7. Remember *informing/to inform* all your colleagues about the meeting.
8. You should have brought your notebook. Sorry, I forgot *telling/to tell* you.
9. I tried *explaining/to explain* what was wrong, but he didn't listen to me.
10. Would you mind *repeating/to repeat* your question?
11. I now know what it means *being/to be* a PhD student.
12. Despite the Ministry's warnings, many people continue *smoking/to smoke*.
13. I plan *finishing/to finish* my PhD studies in two years.
14. Would you stop *making/to make* so much noise?
15. The study stay in the UK will give you an opportunity to practise *speaking/to speak* English.
16. He failed *passing/to pass* the exam in maths.
17. Try *pushing/to push* this button; it might work.
18. I began *reading/to read* papers in English as an undergraduate.
19. You can't postpone *making/to make* a decision indefinitely.
20. I remember *meeting/to meet* him at that conference.
21. He regrets *dropping/to drop* out of university in the third year of his studies.
22. She finished *typing/to type* the report an hour ago.
23. We want to be there for the beginning of the lecture. That will mean *taking/to take* a taxi.
24. I'll never forget *presenting/to present* my first paper at an international conference.
25. He is training *being/to be* a pilot.
26. I didn't intend him *hearing/to hear* that.

IV. Reformulate the following sentences using the words in capitals.

1. My supervisor proposed regular meetings every week. THAT
.....
2. He recommended getting some professional advice. SHOULD
.....
3. The students demanded the Minister's resignation. THAT
.....
4. They decided that some changes should be made as soon as possible. TO
.....

V. Rewrite the sentences, beginning as shown. Do not change the meaning.

1. I'm quite happy to work overtime when needed.
I don't mind
2. I must see the Head of the Admissions Office.
I demand
3. "Don't think twice, take this job", she told me.
She encouraged me
4. There's a risk that he'll lose his job if he behaves like this.
He risks
5. He made a promise to us that he would postpone the deadline.
He promised

6. He should have paid the bill long ago.
He delayed
7. A friend of mine told me about the vacancy in your department.
I learned that
I learned about
8. "Shall I help you with the calculations?" John asked.
John offered

VI. Use the words in capitals to rewrite the sentences. Do not change the meaning. Where possible, use two formulations.

1. I don't think that our approach is very effective. SEEM
.....
.....
2. She succeeded in passing all her examinations by the end of the first year of her PhD studies. MANAGE
.....
.....
3. It is compulsory for all students to pay a registration fee. REQUIRE
.....
.....
4. If you work for an international company, you have to travel a lot. INVOLVE
.....
.....
5. You should write the report soon; the deadline is next week. POSTPONE
.....
.....
6. I believe that the solution is quite easy. APPEAR
.....
.....
7. He spoke briefly about having problems with the new equipment. MENTION
.....
.....
8. I had never thought of becoming a teacher. CONSIDER
.....
.....
9. The grant will make it possible for us to buy new equipment. ALLOW
.....
.....
10. He said that he would be there on time. PROMISE
.....
.....
11. Why did the system fail? CAUSE
.....
.....
12. "Would you like to do some teaching?" "No, I'd rather do research." PREFER
.....
.....
13. We were not able to start the car. REFUSE
.....
.....
14. I want to look at the data analysis once more. INTEND
.....
.....
15. His explanation sounds quite plausible. SEEM
.....
.....
16. I didn't expect the new secretary to be old. IMAGINE
..... young.

