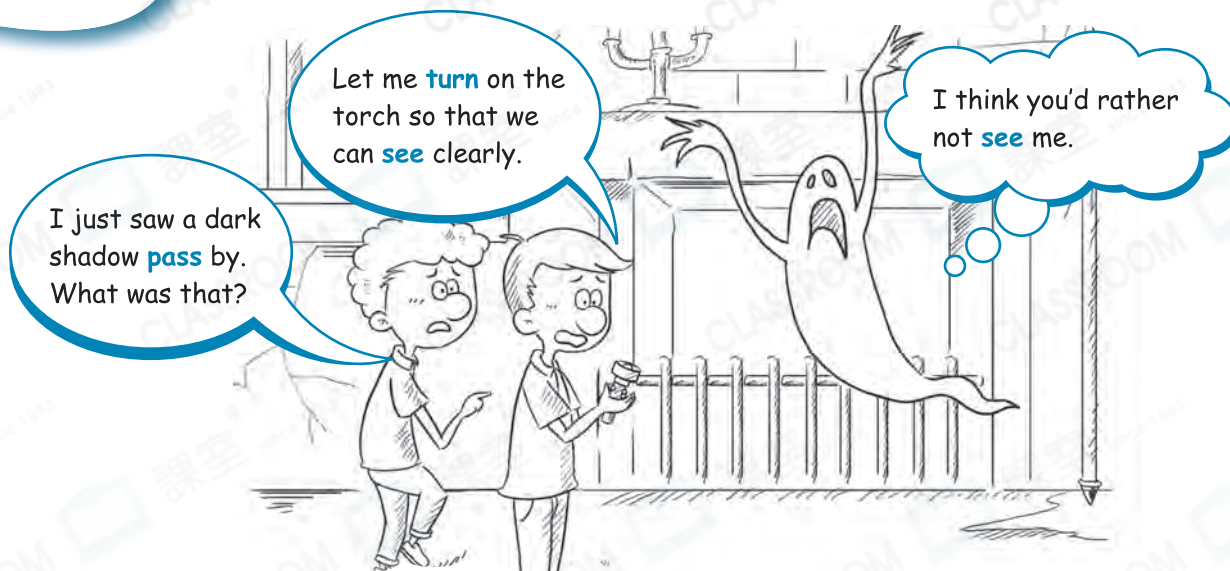


6

Bare infinitives



Usage

Bare infinitives are infinitives without *to*. We use bare infinitives in the following ways:

Use	Example
with modal verbs	We <u>should</u> be nice to others.
with verbs of sense	I just <u>saw</u> Mr Ben hit his head on a lamppost.
with <i>help</i> , <i>let</i> and <i>make</i>	The funny story <u>makes</u> us laugh .
with expressions of preference	Harry <u>would rather</u> play tennis.



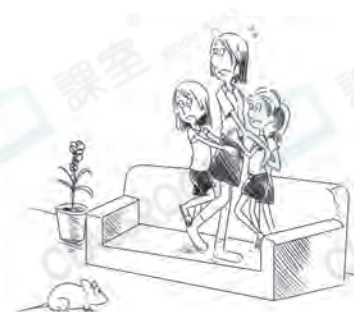
Part 1 After Modal Verbs

We use bare infinitives after modal verbs like:

can could may might must shall should will would

e.g. We could not **step** off the sofa because of the rat!

e.g. Mr Leung may not **buy** the flat today.



Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given. Each verb can be used **ONCE** only. **Underline** the modal verbs.

regret tidy continue see land take

1. Uncle Jimmy is on the plane now. He will _____ two hours later. Mum said we should _____ up the house before his arrival. We may _____ him to the night market if he is not too tired.
2. Brenda has good eyesight. She can _____ things clearly from afar. The doctor told her that she must _____ to protect her eyes well. If not, she might _____ it.



Part 2 After Verbs of Sense

We use bare infinitives after verbs of sense with objects. Common verbs of sense are:

notice see feel watch hear

Verb of sense

e.g. We

watched

Object

the monkey

Bare infinitive

eat bananas.

e.g. He

does not feel

the snow

fall on his skin.



Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given. Each verb can be used **ONCE** only.

not see feel hear not notice watch

beep blow arrive steal

1. You _____ the timer _____ when the time is up.
2. I _____ Tim _____ yet. Where is he?
3. She _____ the breeze _____ and knew that spring had come.
4. Barbara was so focused on _____ the performance that she _____ a thief _____ her wallet.



Part 3A After help, let & make

We use bare infinitives after the verbs *help*, *let* and *make* with an object.

		Object		Bare infinitive	
e.g.	<i>My puppy</i>	<i>helps</i>	↓ <u>me</u>	<i>take</i>	<i>my school bag.</i>
e.g.	<i>Will you</i>	<i>let</i>	↓ <u>him</u>	<i>know</i>	<i>the truth?</i>
e.g.	<i>The news</i>	<i>did not make</i>	↓ <u>me</u>	<i>feel</i>	<i>good.</i>



We can either use a **bare infinitive** or a **to-infinitive** after the verb *help*.

e.g. *I always help my mum do / to do the housework.*



Part 3B After the auxiliary verb do

We use bare infinitives after the auxiliary verb *do*, *does* and *did*.

	Auxiliary do		Bare infinitive
e.g.	↓	This restaurant	↓ <u>does not accept</u>

walk-in customers.

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given and the verbs in brackets. Each verb can be used **ONCE** only.

feel have leave listen realise stay

Last Friday, Mr Hill (1) did not let / didn't let (not let) us leave the hall and

(2) _____ (ask) us _____ to his speech for an hour. His boring speech

(3) _____ (make) me _____ sleepy and nothing could

(4) _____ (help) me _____ awake. However, the bell

(5) _____ (not ring) and he could not (6) _____ that it

was lunchtime. He finally stopped (7) _____ (talk) for half an hour

late and (8) _____ (let) us _____ lunch.





Part 4 After Expressions of Preference

We use bare infinitives after the expressions of preference *had better* and *would rather*:

e.g. The policeman had better *ask* for help.

e.g. The girl would rather *go* to Japan.



Educator's Tips



Remember that we do not change the form of *had better* or *would rather*.

✗ He has better *go* home early after school every day.

✓ He had better *go* home early after school every day.

We change *had better* and *would rather* into their negative form by adding **not** after them.

e.g. You had better not *wander* the streets at midnight.

e.g. The tourist would rather not *join* the activity.

Exercise 4

Put the words in the correct order to form sentences.



1. better / carefully / fire / had / use / the performer

The performer had better use fire carefully.

2. consult / had / a nutritionist / better / you / soon

3. go to the beach / you / had / in the stormy weather / not / better

4. have the meeting / would / the majority of / our class / not / rather

5. silent / would / Joe / rather / stay / at this moment

6. had / have a buffet lunch / my sister / until her stomach / not / recovers / better

Unit Recap

Mila is writing a diary entry. Complete the diary entry with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

27th April 20XX (Thu)

Cloudy

Last week, Freda helped me (1) find // to find (find) a recipe for tiramisu. She said it was easy to make and I could (2) _____ (make) it on my own. I had some free time yesterday so I decided (3) _____ (try) it at home without Mum's help. However, the final product tasted strange so I only ate half a slice of it.

In the evening, I began (4) _____ (feel) unwell. I tried (5) _____ (ignore) the feeling and went to sleep, but I failed to. Soon, I started to vomit. Mum made me (6) _____ (take) some pills but sadly, they didn't work. My stomach was so painful that I had to bend my body. Dad couldn't bear

(7) _____ (see) me (8) _____ (curl) up on the sofa in pain. He called an ambulance and let the doctor (9) _____ (do) a checkup for me.

I ended up (10) _____ (go) to the emergency room of a nearby hospital. A nice nurse said she heard me (11) _____ (cry) outside the ward so she came to comfort me. Later, the doctor said I had food poisoning and deduced that the eggs I used had gone bad. He said I should (12) _____ (be) fine after receiving a drip. When we got home, it was already 1 am.

I didn't go to school today. Mum helped me (13) _____ (call) for sick leave and let me (14) _____ (sleep) until noon. She told me I had better

(15) _____ (be) more careful when I cook. I surely will remember

(16) _____ (not use) spoilt ingredients next time. I would rather not

(17) _____ (have) food poisoning again!



Vocabulary:

curl up (ph.): to lie or sit with your back curved and your arms and legs bent close to your body

deduce (v.): to arrive at a conclusion by reasoning