

Unit 38 Verbs followed by verbal noun or infinitive 1

Explanations

When you learn a new verb, it is advisable to check in a dictionary whether it is followed by a verbal noun (this is also called the *-ing* form, and the gerund) or infinitive (with *to*, or without *to*, also called bare infinitive). Units 38 and 39 include some of the most common verbs, but these are only a selection. See also Unit 40 Verbs followed by prepositions.

Verbs followed by verbal noun *-ing* or infinitive: with little or no change of meaning

- These include:

begin, continue, not bear, hate, intend, like, love, prefer, start

When she stood up, the President began to speak.

When she stood up, the President began speaking.

Some people at the back continued chatting/to chat.

I can't bear listening/to listen for a long time.

What do you intend doing/to do about it?

I don't like watching television. I prefer reading/to read.

I think you should start practising/to practise now!

- When we use *prefer*, we *prefer* one thing *to* another thing. If the things are activities, gerund is used.

Tom prefers reading to watching television.

- For some speakers there is a difference between *like to do* and *like doing*.

I like to listen to the radio every morning while I'm in the bath.

(a habitual action)

I like listening to the radio.

(likes and dislikes)

- *Hate to do* is more usual than *hate doing* in some idiomatic contexts.

I hate doing the washing-up!

I hate to tell you this, but we've missed the last train!

- *Love to do* is more common than *love doing* in some idiomatic contexts.

Sue really loves swimming.

He's the man they love to hate!

- Note that when *would* is used with *like, love* and *prefer*, they are followed by infinitive with *to*.

I'd like to go to Portugal this summer.

Intermediate Language Practice

Verbs followed
by infinitive + to

These include:

afford, ask, choose, happen, help, manage, offer, refuse, wait, want

I can't afford to go to the cinema twice in one week.

In the end, Laura chose to study Economics.

Do you happen to know the time?

*Could someone help me to carry this?**

(Help is also used without to. Could you help me carry this?)

Jim can't manage to come this evening.

I offered to give her a lift, but she said she'd ordered a taxi.

The manager refused to see me.

There are some people waiting to see you.

What do you want to do this evening?

Verbs followed
by infinitive + to,
or *that*-clause

● These include:

agree, decide, expect, hope, learn, pretend, promise, seem, wish

● It is possible to leave out *that* in everyday speech.

● Note that *that*-clauses often follow sequence of tense rules, as in reported speech. See Units 10 and 11. The main verbs of this type are:

Sarah agrees to meet you after school.

Sarah agrees that she will meet you after school.

Sarah agreed to meet me after school.

Sarah agreed (that) she would meet me after school.

We decided to go home.

We decided (that) we would go home.

Mike expects to win.

Mike expects (that) he will win.

I hope to see you later.

I hope (that) I'll see you later.

Helen pretended to be ill.

Helen pretended that she was ill.

● There is a small difference in the meanings of *learn*.

At school Graham learned to speak French.

(learn a skill)

At school we learned that the Earth goes round the Sun.

(learn information)

● Note the uses of *seem*. *It + seem + that*-clause is very common.

You seem to know the answer! It seems that you know the answer.

● *Wish* followed by infinitive with *to* has a similar meaning to *want*.

I wish to leave early today.

Wish followed by a *that*-clause usually includes *would* or *could*.

I wish (that) I could leave early.

I wish (that) my teacher would let me leave early.

Practice

1

Correct the errors. Some sentences do not have errors.

- a) Jim can't afford going to the cinema twice a week.
..Jim can't afford to go to the cinema twice a week.....
- b) David wishes leaving the room.

- c) Are you waiting to use the phone?

- d) I'd really like going swimming on Saturday.

- e) Everyone decided to put off the football match.

- f) Emma pretended leaving, but waited outside.

- g) Jack agreed to meet me at the beach.

- h) My bike seems having something wrong with it.

- i) The director refused answering Helen's phone call.

- j) What exactly do you intend to say to Mrs Dawson?

2

Complete each sentence with a form of one of the verbs from the list. Use each verb once only.

afford bear continue expect happen
 learn love offer prefer pretend

- a) John really *...loves.....* spending all day at the beach.
- b) I'm completely broke, so I can't to go on holiday.
- c) Excuse me, but do you to know the way to Old Street?
- d) We our team to win, but they were badly beaten.
- e) Kate to speak French and German when she was at school.
- f) Even when the examiner told him to stop, Bill speaking.
- g) I'm sorry, but I can't to listen to this awful music!
- h) Last week George to help me paint my bike.
- i) Paul to have a bad leg so he didn't have to go to the gym.
- j) Sam usually playing football to doing homework.

3

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- a) My teacher wouldn't let me leave early.
My teacher refused ... *to let me leave early*
- b) Jill sang without stopping for an hour.
Jill continued
- c) Apparently you have passed the exam.
It seems
- d) Richard thinks he is going to do well.
Richard expects
- e) What are your plans for the summer?
What do you intend
- f) Clearing up my room is something I dislike!
I hate
- g) Helen said she'd go to the cinema with me.
Helen agreed
- h) Tina and Brian are getting married.
Tina and Brian have decided
- i) See you later, I hope.
I hope
- j) What do you fancy doing this evening?
What do you want

4

Complete each sentence with one of the words from the list.

agreed asked chose decides hate
hopes like refused seems want

- a) Jack often ... *seems* to be worried.
- b) I to tell you this, but we've lost all our money.
- c) I Ann to wait for me, but she didn't.
- d) Do you to go for a walk this afternoon?
- e) Carol to become a champion skater.
- f) The police officer to listen to my explanation.
- g) Peter to work on Saturday instead of on Friday.
- h) I'd to see you again some time.
- i) Jim often to stay at home and go to bed early.
- j) I asked my teacher for help, and she to give me extra lessons.

5

Rewrite each sentence so that it has a similar meaning and contains the word given.

- a) What are you thinking of doing?

intend

.....*What do you intend to do?*.....

- b) I find getting up early unbearable!

bear

.....

- c) I'll see you in the morning, I expect.

to

.....



- d) 'I won't help!' said Tom.

refused

.....

- e) Pat was taught to drive when he was young.

learned

.....

- f) 'Would you like me to help you?' I asked Joe.

offered

.....

- g) Ellen didn't have enough money for the ticket.

afford

.....

- h) 'I'll be back at 6.00,' said Susan.

promised

.....

Intermediate Language Practice

- **Intermediate level grammar** clearly explained and practised
- Consolidation and **extension of vocabulary** in common topic areas
- **Vocabulary skills**, including word-building and dictionary work, developed and practised
- **PET exam-format exercises** included
- Grammar index and wordlist
- Ideal for self-study or classroom use

- 4 a) *didn't live up to*
 b) drop in on
 c) run out of
 d) get on with
 e) caught up with
 f) looking forward to
 g) keep up with
 h) cut down on

Unit 37

- 1 a) *wash* e) try
 b) look f) fill
 c) set g) turned
 d) put h) dropped
- 2 a) 3 b) 8 c) 1 d) 6 e) 4 f) 5
 g) 2 h) 7
- 3 a) *Turn the lights off when you leave the school.*
 b) You should look this word up in a dictionary.
 c) The athletics meeting was put off for a week.
 d) The doctor told David to give up football.
 e) Could you fill in this form?
 f) Jack turned up half-way through the lesson.
 g) We can put you up for a week.
 h) Helen is getting on well in her English class.
- 4 a) *Paula grew up in Uruguay.*
 b) As soon as it was dawn, we set off.
 c) Parachuting is dangerous so you should give it up.
 d) Martin clears up his room/clears his room up every morning.
 e) How do you turn on the computer/turn the computer on?
 f) Can I try on these shoes/try these shoes on?
 g) Carol looked up the dates/ looked the dates up in an encyclopedia.
 h) Skating is a great sport. When did you take it up?

Problems, Errors, Consolidation 4

- 1 a) *better* e) best
 b) each f) for
 c) hard g) no
 d) some h) is
- 2 1) *d* 2) a 3) c 4) a 5) d 6) d
 7) b 8) c 9) b 10) a 11) b
 12) d 13) c 14) b 15) c
- 3 a) *of these classrooms is very large*
 b) until the end of April
 c) smoking is allowed in this cinema
 d) some advice
 e) waited as long as you have
 f) 2.00
 g) classroom must be kept clean
 h) on foot

- i) go any further along this road
 j) in time to save the burning house
- 4 a) *I can put you up.*
 b) Harry can't put up with loud music.
 c) Peter is getting on well at university.
 d) I'll clear up the room if you do the washing up.
 e) We're making for Madrid.
 f) Why don't you look up this word/look this word up in the dictionary?
 g) Jane takes after her father.
 h) Sue's father is trying to give up smoking.
- 5 1) ✓ 2) *the* 3) it 4) a 5) was
 6) ✓ 7) ago 8) much 9) the
 10) more 11) one 12) ✓ 13) after
 14) after 15) up 16) once 17) the
- 6 a) *the* b) - c) - d) the e) for
 f) - g) lot h) much i) the j) any
 k) the l) the m) the n) a
 o) either
- 7 a) *Not a single person picked up the litter.*
 b) Paul has been learning Hungarian since 1997.
 c) There is no cheese in the fridge.
 d) The rich are not necessarily happy.
 e) Jane draws beautifully.
 f) This is the worst film I have ever seen.
 g) Helen stayed in Paris until July.
 h) Are you interested in opera?

- 8 a) *much/than* f) all/both
 b) the/than g) Both/in
 c) the/a h) as/as
 d) not as i) until/by
 e) some/much j) best/ever
- 9 a) *I'm really interested in travel.*
 b) Kate's brother is a doctor.
 c) I had/ate some food with Jack, and after that I went home.
 d) Milk is good for you.
 e) Can you give me some advice?
 f) I've looked in the box. Everything is broken, I'm afraid.
 g) They will have finished the new hospital by the end of March./They won't have finished the new hospital until the end of March.
 h) There's a police officer/policeman/policewoman waiting outside.
 i) I come to class on foot.
 j) Your hair is very beautiful.

Unit 38

- 1 a) *Jim can't afford to go to the cinema twice a week.*
 b) David wishes to leave the room.
 c) Are you waiting to use the phone?
 d) I'd really like to go swimming on Saturday.

- e) Everyone decided to put off the football match.
 f) Emma pretended to leave, but waited outside.
 g) Jack agreed to meet me at the beach.
 h) My bike seems to have something wrong with it.
 i) The director refused to answer Helen's phone call.
 j) What exactly do you intend to say to Mrs Dawson?
- 2 a) *loves* f) continued
 b) afford g) bear
 c) happen h) offered
 d) expected i) pretended
 e) learned j) prefers
- 3 a) *to let me leave early*
 b) singing for an hour without stopping
 c) (that) you have passed the exam
 d) to do well
 e) to do in the summer/this summer
 f) clearing up my room
 g) to go to the cinema with me
 h) to get married
 i) to see you later
 j) to do this evening
- 4 a) *seems* f) refused
 b) hate g) chose
 c) asked h) like
 d) want i) decides
 e) hopes j) agreed
- 5 a) *What do you intend to do?*
 b) I can't bear getting up early!
 c) I expect to see you in the morning.
 d) Tom refused to help.
 e) Pat learned to drive when he was young.
 f) I offered to help Joe.
 g) Ellen couldn't afford the ticket.
 h) Susan promised to be back at 6.00.

Unit 39

- 1 a) *to lock* e) to open
 b) to have f) to take
 c) talking g) sky-diving
 d) being h) starting
- 2 a) *Do you fancy*
 b) The boy admitted that he had
 c) that you are wrong
 d) I suggest
 e) David keeps
 f) Do you mind
 g) Imagine
 h) Paula denied
 i) I can't help
 j) We saw the building

- 3 a) *chose* e) denied
 b) afford f) admitted
 c) mind g) decided
 d) meant h) fancy