

Some helpful information
about the infinitive...

Some verbs can be followed by an object/object pronoun and then the bare infinitive (without "to")

e.g. "The costumes made them look like teddy bears."

OBJECT PRONOUN

THE BARE INFINITIVE



But be careful, because "make" takes the *full* infinitive when used in the passive.

e.g. "He was made to hand over his knife."

"make" used in the PASSIVE

THE FULL INFINITIVE
(with "to")



When "know" is followed by the object pronoun and the infinitive, it means 'to have experience of', the "to" is optional, and this usage is restricted to the perfect aspect

e.g. "I have known him (to) work late every evening."

PRESENT PERFECT

OBJECT PRONOUN

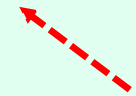


Although the infinitive *can* function as the subject of a sentence the effect is very formal and the gerund is much more commonly used. The infinitive as subject is nearly always introduced by 'it'

e.g. "It is essential to include all your sources in your bibliography;"

rather than,  Introductory "It"

"To include all your sources in your bibliography is essential."

 The infinitive as subject of the sentence (very formal)

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Most, but not all, adjectives are followed by the infinitive

INFINITIVES

e.g. "He thought it was essential to write a powerful introduction."

"It was lovely to meet you at last!"

"I was sad to see him walking home alone in the snow."

But... ADJECTIVES

"It was exciting meeting Madonna."

GERUND

ADJECTIVE



In addition, the infinitive is frequently used as a complement to help define an abstract noun...

ABSTRACT NOUNS INFINITIVES

e.g. "The band had the integrity to evoke smiles not condescension."

"They were given the freedom to play outside."

"A teacher must have the authority to control a class."

"He had the opportunity to study Spanish."

An abstract noun refers to concepts, feelings, qualities, etc., that have no *physical* existence, eg: "freedom", "authority", "opportunity" and so on.



Finally, the infinitive is often used to express the reason for doing something, this is commonly known as the infinitive of purpose*,

e.g. "He came to London to learn English."

"They went jogging to get fit."

"I sat up all night to see the sun rise."

(or,... here is a more academic example)

"To achieve a successful design many parameters have to be considered."



*Answers the question, "Why...?"

Now, try the exercises...

Good luck!