Infinitives

Worksheet 1: Verb + Object + to-infinitive

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: Someone Wants Someone Else to Do Something

Many verbs follow the pattern **verb + object + to-infinitive**. The object (a person) is different from the subject: one person makes another person do something.

Verb	Example	Notes
want	I **want you to** listen.	NOT "I want that you listen"
ask	She **asked me to** wait.	
tell	He **told them to** stop.	
advise	The doctor **advised him to** rest.	
expect	We **expect you to** arrive on time.	
invite	They **invited us to** stay.	
encourage	She **encouraged me to** apply.	
allow	They **allowed her to** leave.	
remind	Please **remind me to** call.	
would like	I**'d like you to** meet my sister.	

Common error alert: English does not use "that + clause" after these verbs.
✓ I want **you to come**. ✗ I want ~~that you come~~.

Part A – Complete the Pattern

> **Complete with the object (a pronoun) + *to* + the verb.**

1. The teacher wants _____ quietly. *(us / work)*
2. I asked _____ me the salt. *(him / pass)*
3. She told _____ down. *(them / sit)*
4. My parents encouraged _____ a language. *(me / study)*
5. We expect _____ hard. *(you / try)*
6. The guide advised _____ plenty of water. *(us / drink)*

Part B – Rewrite the Sentence

> **Rewrite using the verb in brackets + object + to-infinitive.**

1. "Please be quiet," the teacher said to us. *(tell)*

2. "Could you help me?" she said to him. *(ask)*

3. "You should see a doctor," he said to me. *(advise)*

4. "Would you like to come to my party?" she said to them. *(invite)*

Part C – From "that" to Infinitive

> **These sentences use a wrong "that" structure (a common transfer error). Rewrite them correctly with an infinitive.**

1. I want that you help me.

2. She expects that we arrive early.

3. They advised that I take the train.

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: The Bare Infinitive (make, let, help)

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: Object + Bare Infinitive (no to)

A few important verbs take **object + bare infinitive** (the infinitive **without to**).

Verb	Example	Meaning
make	My boss **made me work** late.	force / cause
let	They **let us leave** early.	allow / permit
help	She **helped me carry** the bags. *(or: helped me to carry)*	both forms OK

Compare the two patterns:
make / let → object + **bare** infinitive: *made me **work**, let us **go**.*
allow / force / permit → object + **to**-infinitive: *allowed me **to work**, forced us **to go**.*
Same meaning, different grammar! *help* allows both: *helped me (to) carry.*

Part A – to or no to?

Add *to*, or write — if no *to* is needed.

1. My mother made me _____ tidy my room.
2. They allowed us _____ take photos.
3. Let me _____ help you.
4. The teacher made the class _____ be quiet.
5. She helped him _____ find his keys.
6. The rules don't allow you _____ use your phone.
7. Don't let the dog _____ jump on the sofa.
8. The heavy rain forced them _____ cancel the trip.

Part B – make / let / allow

Complete each sentence with *make, let* or *allow* in the correct form, plus the right infinitive form.

1. The film was so sad it _____ me cry. *(make)*
2. My parents don't _____ me to stay out late. *(allow)*
3. Please _____ me know if you need anything. *(let)*
4. The security guard wouldn't _____ us to enter. *(allow)*

Part C – Rewrite with the Same Meaning

> **Rewrite each sentence using the verb in brackets. Watch the infinitive form!**

1. My teacher forced me to rewrite the essay. *(make)*

   _____

2. They allowed the children to watch TV. *(let)*

   _____

3. The coach let us leave training early. *(allow)*

   _____

4. Loud music makes me feel happy. *(rewrite starting: "Loud music makes...")*

   _____

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Question Word + Infinitive

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: what to do, where to go, how to…

We can use a **question word** (what, where, how, when, who, whether) + **to-infinitive**. This is a short way of expressing an indirect question.

Full clause	Question word + infinitive
I don't know what I should do.	I don't know **what to do**.
She wasn't sure where she should go.	She wasn't sure **where to go**.
Can you show me how I can use this?	Can you show me **how to use** this?
We need to decide when we should leave.	We need to decide **when to leave**.
I'm not sure whether I should go or stay.	I'm not sure **whether to go** or stay.

Note: we do **not** use *why* in this pattern.
✓ I don't know why I should go. ✗ ~~I don't know why to go.~~

Part A – Shorten the Sentence

Rewrite using a question word + infinitive.

1. She doesn't know what she should say.

   _____

2. Can you tell me where I can buy tickets?

   _____

3. He explained how we should fill in the form.

   _____

4. I can't decide which one I should choose.

   _____

5. We're not sure when we should start.

   _____

Part B – Complete the Sentence

Add a question word + *to* + the verb in brackets.

1. I don't know _____ for dinner. *(what / cook)*
2. Can you show me _____ the printer? *(how / use)*
3. She's wondering _____ on holiday this year. *(where / go)*

4. Let me know _____ you. *(when / call)*

5. He wasn't sure _____ the truth or not. *(whether / tell)*

Part C – Complete the Idea

> **Finish each sentence with a question word + infinitive that makes sense.**

1. When I arrive in a new city, I always ask a local

   _____

2. Before an exam, some students don't know

   _____

3. If you're lost, a map can show you

   _____

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Analysis, Editing and Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Part A – Text Analysis

When I started my first job, my manager told me to watch and learn before doing anything myself. She let me make small mistakes, but she always encouraged me to ask questions. At first I didn't know how to use half the software, and I wasn't sure whether to admit it or pretend. In the end, I decided to be honest. A kind colleague helped me learn the systems, and my manager allowed me to take an online course. Looking back, being made to think for myself was the best training I could have had.

Questions

1. Find three examples of *verb + object + infinitive*. Note whether each takes *to* or a bare infinitive.

2. Find one example of *question word + infinitive*.

3. "she let me make small mistakes" — why is there no *to* before *make*? Rewrite the idea using *allow*.

4. The last sentence contains "being made to think". Why does *to* reappear here after *make*?

Part B – Editing

> **This paragraph has six infinitive errors. Find and correct them.**

My coach always makes us to warm up before training. He doesn't let us to skip it. Last week he told me work on my speed, and he encouraged me trying a new technique. I didn't know how doing it at first, but he showed me. He wants that I compete next month. I'm nervous, but he has helped me to believe in myself.

#	Error	Correction
1		
2		
3		
4		

5		
6		

Part C – Writing

Write a paragraph (**120–150 words**) about a person who taught or trained you (a teacher, coach, boss, or relative). Use at least: two **verb + object + infinitive** patterns; one **make / let** (bare infinitive); one **question word + infinitive**. Underline them.

Word count: _____

Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B1 Level, Infinitives

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 us to work **2** him to pass **3** them to sit **4** me to study **5** you to try **6** us to drink

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 The teacher told us to be quiet. **2** She asked him to help her. **3** He advised me to see a doctor. **4** She invited them to come to her party.

Worksheet 1 – Part C

1 I want you to help me. **2** She expects us to arrive early. **3** They advised me to take the train.

> *The "want that" error is one of the most persistent at B1, especially for speakers of Romance and Slavic languages, whose equivalents use a subjunctive clause. Overteach the infinitive pattern — it is the single highest-value correction in this pack.*

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 — · 2 to · 3 — · 4 — · 5 (to) — both accepted · 6 to · 7 — · 8 to

> *Item 5 (help) accepts both — reward either answer, but point out the option. The pattern to master: make/let = bare; allow/force/permit = to; help = both.*

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 made · 2 allow (me to stay) · 3 let · 4 allow (us to enter)

Worksheet 2 – Part C

1 My teacher made me rewrite the essay. **2** They let the children watch TV. **3** The coach allowed us to leave training early. **4** Loud music makes me feel happy. (already correct — reward students who recognise it needs no change)

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 She doesn't know what to say. **2** Can you tell me where to buy tickets? **3** He explained how to fill in the form. **4** I can't decide which (one) to choose. **5** We're not sure when to start.

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 what to cook **2** how to use **3** where to go **4** when to call **5** whether to tell

Worksheet 3 – Part C (sample answers)

Accept any sensible completion: 1 …where to eat / what to see. 2 …what to revise / how to prepare. 3 …where to go / which way to turn.

Worksheet 4 – Part A

Q1: told me to watch (to); encouraged me to ask (to); allowed me to take (to); let me make (bare); helped me learn (bare or to). Any three.

Q2: how to use (…half the software); whether to admit it (or pretend).
Q3: *let* takes the bare infinitive. With *allow*: "She allowed me to make small mistakes."
Q4: In the passive, *make* takes the *to*-infinitive: "she made me think" (active, bare) → "I was made to think" (passive, to). This is a genuine and testable irregularity.

Worksheet 4 – Part B

#	Error	Correction
1	makes us to warm up	**makes us warm up**
2	let us to skip	**let us skip**
3	told me work	**told me to work**
4	encouraged me trying	**encouraged me to try**
5	how doing it	**how to do it**
6	wants that I compete	**wants me to compete**

> *"has helped me to believe" is correct (help + to is allowed) — reward students who leave it alone. The six errors span every pattern in the pack, so this edit doubles as a diagnostic.*

Worksheet 4 – Part C: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Verb + object + inf	Two or more; correct object + to-infinitive	0–5
make / let	Bare infinitive correct after make/let	0–4
Question word + inf	what/how/where etc. + to; correct and natural	0–4
Accuracy	No "want that" or extra-*to* errors	0–3
Task & length	120–150 words; coherent portrait	0–3