

16.3 Verb (+ noun/pronoun) + *to*-infinitive

16.3A 'He can't afford to buy it' [> LEG 16.19, App 46]

Study:

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Some verbs are followed only by a *to*-infinitive, not by *-ing* or *that ...*:
 e.g. *can('t) afford, aim, apply, fail, hasten, hurry, manage, offer, prepare, refuse, seek*:
He can't afford to buy a car. (Not **He can't afford buying/He can't afford that ...*).

Write: Rewrite these sentences to begin with the words in italics.

- 1 He'd like to buy a car. *He can't afford it.* *He can't afford to buy a car.*.....
- 2 I didn't pass my driving test. *I failed.*
- 3 He'll pay for all of us. *He's offering.*
- 4 Can you move the desk on your own? *Can you manage*
- 5 He wants to join the army. *He's just applied.*
- 6 Apologize to her? *I refuse.*

16.3B 'I want (you) to speak to him' [> LEG 16.20, App 46.1]

Study:

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We use a *to*-infinitive after these verbs:
ask, beg, choose, expect, hate, help [> 16.1C], *like, love, need, prefer, want, wish*:
I want to speak to the manager. (= I will speak to the manager)
 Or we can use a noun or pronoun before the infinitive:
I want you to speak to the manager. (= You will speak ...) Not (**I want that you ...*)

Write: Complete these sentences so that they refer to other people.

- 1 I don't want to speak to the manager. I want *you to speak to him.*.....
- 2 She doesn't expect to pay. She expects
- 3 I don't want to write to them. I'd like
- 4 I don't want anyone to know about it. I'd hate
- 5 You won't listen to me. How many times do I have to ask
- 6 I can't do the job myself. I need
- 7 We can't move it. Perhaps you can help [> 16.1C]

16.3C 'He advised me to take out a loan' [> LEG 16.21]

Study:

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These verbs always have an object before the *to*-infinitive:
advise, allow, entitle, forbid, invite, order, remind, (it) takes, teach, tell, warn:
My bank manager advised me to take out a loan. [compare > 15.5A]

Write: Complete these sentences using an object + *to*-infinitive after the verbs.

- 1 Take out a loan. My bank manager advised *me to take out a loan.*.....
- 2 She didn't peel the potatoes. You didn't tell
- 3 We work hard. Our teacher taught
- 4 The soldiers fired. The officer ordered
- 5 You can apply for free travel. This certificate entitles
- 6 The public should not approach this man. The police have warned
- 7 My wife and I play tennis. My boss invited

16.3D 'I know him to be an honest man' [> LEG 16.22]

Study:
 We can use *that* or a *to*-infinitive after these verbs to refer to people or things:
believe, consider, discover, find, imagine, know, prove, suppose, think, understand.
 Instead of: **People know (that) he is an honest man.**
 We can say: **People know him to be an honest man.**

Write: Rewrite these sentences using a *to*-infinitive instead of *that*.

- 1 People know that he is an honest man. *People know him to be an honest man.*
- 2 I imagine that he works very hard.
- 3 I believe that she is guilty.
- 4 I found that the job was too difficult.
- 5 We discovered the claim was false.
- 6 I know that she has an interest in the company.

16.3E 'I agreed to accept their offer' [> LEG 16.23]

Study:
 We can use *that* or a *to*-infinitive after these verbs:
agree, arrange, claim, choose, decide, expect, hope, pretend, promise, swear, threaten, wish.
 Instead of: **I agreed that I would accept their offer.**
 We can say: **I agreed to accept their offer.**

Write: Rewrite these sentences using a *to*-infinitive after the verbs.

- 1 I agreed that I would accept the offer. *I agreed to accept the offer.*
- 2 I hope that I will succeed.
- 3 I expect that I will hear from you.
- 4 He claimed that he had met me.
- 5 I arranged that I should be there.
- 6 She pretended that she didn't know me.

16.3F Context

Write: Put in the correct forms of the verbs.

HOW TO GET RID OF RATS
 When I was a young man, working in Malaya, my boss gave me a difficult job to do. The roof of his house had become infested with rats and he (*want/I get rid of*) ¹ *wanted me to get rid of* them for him. I tried everything: rat poison, cats, even a mongoose, but I (*fail/move*) ² them. Then a friend of mine (*advise/ I use*) ³ a python. I (*considered this/be*) ⁴ my last chance and (*agree/try*) ⁵ it. My friend brought me a box in which he had trapped a young python, about six feet long. We (*manage/get*) ⁶ the box into the roof and then released the python. The effect was amazing! The rats disappeared in no time! It (*prove/be*) ⁷ a wonderful solution. But then we didn't know (*what/do*) ⁸ with the python. I couldn't (*bear/shoot*) ⁹ this superb creature. It (*take/six of us an hour/get*) ¹⁰ it into the box and then we returned it to the jungle.



... didn't know what to do with the python