

Verbs + Infinitive and Uses of the Infinitive

Introduction

In English, verbs can be followed by the infinitive form of another verb. The infinitive form is “to” + the base form of a verb. Understanding when and how to use verbs with infinitives is crucial for effective communication.

Verbs Followed by Infinitives

Some verbs are commonly followed by the infinitive. Here are a few examples:

- **Decide:**
 - Example: “I decided to go to the movies.”
- **Want:**
 - Example: “She wants to learn Spanish.”
- **Plan:**
 - Example: “They plan to travel next year.”
- **Hope:**
 - Example: “I hope to finish my project soon.”
- **Expect:**
 - Example: “We expect to receive the package tomorrow.”

Uses of the Infinitive

The infinitive has several important uses in English:

1. Purpose

- The infinitive can express the purpose of an action.
- Example: “I went to the store to buy milk.”

2. Result

- It can also show the result of an action.
- Example: “She studied hard to pass the exam.”

3. After Certain Adjectives

- Some adjectives are followed by the infinitive.
- Example: “It is easy to learn English.”

4. In Formal Statements

- Infinitives are used in formal statements or announcements.
- Example: "It is necessary to attend the meeting."

5. As a Subject or Complement

- The infinitive can function as the subject of a sentence.
- Example: "To travel is my dream."
- It can also be a complement.
- Example: "My goal is to become a doctor."

6. In Questions

- Infinitives can be used in questions to ask about someone's intentions or plans.
- Example: "What do you plan to do tonight?"

Conclusion

Mastering the use of verbs with infinitives and understanding the various roles of the infinitive in sentences will enhance your ability to express complex ideas clearly and effectively in English.