

# 64 Shortening infinitives

As well as ellipsis and substitution, you can also shorten (or “reduce”) infinitives to prevent repetition. This will help you to sound more natural when speaking.

 **New language** Reduced infinitives

 **Aa Vocabulary** Music and performance

 **New skill** Avoiding repetition

## 64.1 KEY LANGUAGE REDUCED INFINITIVES

You can use “to” on its own rather than repeat the entire infinitive verb. You can only do this if the meaning remains clear.

Let's go to see that new DJ tonight.



I don't really want **to** [go to see the new DJ].

If the previous sentence or clause contains the verb “be,” then you must use “be” in the next clause or sentence.

She **was** really critical of the new album.



It's difficult not **to be** [critical of it].  
The singing is awful!



## 64.2 CROSS OUT ALL OF THE WORDS THAT YOU CAN LEAVE OUT

I want to get the best tickets for the show, but can't afford ~~to get them~~.

- 1 I tried to contact Max about the concert tickets, but wasn't able to contact him.
- 2 My brother often forgets our dad's birthday, but this year he's promised not to forget.
- 3 Georgia was enjoying the performance. At least, she seemed to be enjoying it.
- 4 Ian is going to the new nightclub, but I don't really want to go to there.
- 5 The festival tickets cost a lot more than they used to cost.
- 6 I want to come with you, but I won't be able to come with you.



## 64.3 KEY LANGUAGE DROPPING THE ENTIRE INFINITIVE CLAUSE



You can leave out the entire infinitive clause, or just keep "to" after some verbs, such as: "agree," "ask," "forget," "promise," "start," and "try."

**Chris is going to come to the show. He** **{promised [to come]}  
{promised to [come]}**.

You can also leave out the entire infinitive or use "to" after some nouns, such as: "chance," "plans," "promise," "idea," and "opportunity."

**I haven't seen this band before. I'd love the** **{chance [to see them]}  
{chance to [see them]}**.

It is also possible to do this after certain adjectives, such as: "delighted," "afraid," "willing," and "determined."

**I want to perform on stage, but I'm** **{afraid [to perform on stage]}  
{afraid to [perform on stage]}**.



## 64.4 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Two students are talking about learning to play musical instruments.

Luca has a double bass in his case.

True  False

1 Luca says the cello is harder to play than the guitar.

True  False

2 Tanya plays the trumpet now.

True  False

3 Luca will be joining a new orchestra next week.

True  False

4 Luca was confident about his orchestra audition.

True  False

5 Tanya is a member of the college orchestra.

True  False

6 Tanya cannot audition again.

True  False

7 Tanya and Luca have played together before.

True  False

## 64.5 KEY LANGUAGE VERBS WITH COMPLEMENTS

You cannot leave out the entire infinitive after verbs that need complements (phrases that complete their meaning), such as: "advise," "afford," "be able," "choose," "decide," "expect," "hate," "hope," "love," "need," and "prefer." After these, you must keep the "to."



We want to see a band tonight, but we really can't afford to.



## 64.6 FURTHER EXAMPLES VERBS WITH COMPLEMENTS



I tried to get to the front of the crowd, but I **wasn't able to**.



I had piano lessons as a child, but I didn't **choose to**.



You could bring some snacks along, but you don't **need to**.



I have never been to the opera, but I would **love to**.



## 64.7 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL

I asked my sister to sing with me and she said she'd be delighted.

- 1 I would like to read music, but it will be a long time until I'm able to.
- 2 Don't forget that it's supposed to rain tonight. Try to leave before it starts.
- 3 Some people aren't nervous about performing, but I'm too afraid to.
- 4 Some artists don't like to have family in the audience on the first night, but I hate to.
- 5 It's such a shame. I would absolutely love to see him sing, but cannot afford to.
- 6 I've seen other artists who love talking to the audience, but I prefer to.
- 7 You don't need to worry. I will come along to all of your recitals. I promise.

afford

starts

delighted

promise

afraid

prefer

hate

able



## 64.8 KEY LANGUAGE "WANT" AND "WOULD LIKE"

You normally keep the "to" rather than drop the entire infinitive after "want" or "would like."

In "if" clauses, however, you can often use "to" on its own or drop the whole infinitive after "want" or "would like."

You must keep the "to" if the clause is negative.

He asked if I wanted to go, and I said I **would like to**.



You can come with us if you **want** **want to**.

**Don't go to the concert if you don't want to.**



### 64.9 MARK THE SENTENCES THAT ARE CORRECT

Thanks for the offer! I would really like to.

Thanks for the offer! I would really like.

1 I asked him to come, but he didn't want.

I asked him to come, but he didn't want to.

2 You can have one if you want.

You can have one if you do.

3 You can stay, but I don't really want to.

You can stay, but I don't really want.

4 If you're free to meet, I would still like to.

If you're free to meet, I would still like.

5 You can call me "Sam" if you want to call.

You can call me "Sam" if you want.



### 64.10 RESPOND TO THE AUDIO, SPEAKING OUT LOUD

Will you record my performance tonight?

Yes, I promise. (promise)



1 Are you going to sell your CD collection?

No, decide (decide)



2 Will you practice every day?

Yes, try (try)



3 Would you like to come to the concert?

Yes, but afford (afford)



## 64 CHECKLIST

Reduced infinitives

**Aa** Music and performing

Avoiding repetition