Infinitives

Worksheet 1: Perfect, Passive & Continuous Infinitives

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: The Infinitive Has Its Own Forms

The infinitive carries aspect and voice, just like a finite verb.

Form	Structure	Example
Simple	to + verb	She seems **to know** the answer.
Continuous	to be + -ing	She seems **to be waiting** for someone.
Perfect	to have + past participle	She seems **to have left** already.
Perfect continuous	to have been + -ing	She seems **to have been crying**.
Passive (simple)	to be + past participle	He expects **to be promoted**.
Passive (perfect)	to have been + past participle	He is thought **to have been warned**.

What each form signals: the **perfect infinitive** places the action *before* the main verb (*seems to have left* = left earlier). The **continuous** shows an action in progress. The **passive** shows the subject receives the action. These combine with reporting structures: *He is said/believed/thought/known to have…*

Part A – Identify the Form

Name the infinitive form in bold.

1. They are believed **to have escaped** during the night. _____
2. He appears **to be struggling** with the workload. _____
3. She hopes **to be chosen** for the team. _____
4. The negotiators seem **to have been talking** for hours. _____
5. The documents are known **to have been destroyed**. _____

Part B – Choose the Right Infinitive

Complete with the correct infinitive form of the verb in brackets.

1. I'm sorry — I seem _____ your name. *(forget — it happened before now)*

2. She'd love _____ to the concert, but she has to work. *(invite — passive)*

3. He pretended _____ the instructions, but he clearly hadn't. *(read — before now)*

4. They appear _____ a good time at the moment. *(have — in progress)*

5. The painting is believed _____ by a student, not the master. *(paint — passive, before now)*

Part C – Rewrite with a Reporting Structure

> **Rewrite each sentence using the pattern *subject + passive reporting verb + to-infinitive*. Begin as shown.**

1. People believe that the CEO earns millions. → The CEO is believed

_____

2. Experts think that the virus started in bats. → The virus is thought

_____

3. Everyone knows that he has lied before. → He is known

_____

4. They say that the company is losing money. → The company is said

_____

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Perception Verbs: Infinitive vs -ing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: see / hear / watch / feel + object + bare infinitive OR -ing

After verbs of perception (*see, hear, watch, feel, notice, listen to*), the object is followed by a **bare infinitive** or an **-ing form** — with a meaning difference.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
+ bare infinitive	I saw her **cross** the road.	the **complete** action, from start to finish
+ -ing	I saw her **crossing** the road.	the action **in progress**; I saw part of it

The contrast in practice:
*I heard him **play** the sonata.* — I heard the whole piece.
*I heard him **playing** the piano.* — I heard the sound in progress; maybe I walked past.
Note: in the **passive**, the bare infinitive becomes a *to*-infinitive: *He was seen **to leave**.*

Part A – Complete Form Choice

> **Choose the more appropriate form and be ready to justify it.**

1. I watched the sun (set / setting) completely below the horizon.
2. As I passed the studio, I heard someone (sing / singing).
3. We saw the thief (take / taking) the wallet and run off.
4. She felt her phone (vibrate / vibrating) in her pocket and answered it.
5. From my window I could see children (play / playing) in the park.
6. Did you notice him (leave / leaving)? I didn't see him go.

Part B – Active to Passive

> **Rewrite in the passive. Remember the bare infinitive becomes a to-infinitive.**

1. Several witnesses saw the man enter the building.

   _____

2. They heard the suspect make a phone call.

   _____

3. People saw her leave the party alone.

   _____

Part C – Explain the Difference

> **Explain the difference in meaning between the two sentences in each pair.**

1. **a.** I watched him *paint* the fence. **b.** I watched him *painting* the fence.

2. **a.** She heard the bomb *explode*. **b.** She heard the alarm *ringing*.

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: be + to and Other Structures

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Special Infinitive Structures

Structure	Example	Use
be + to-infinitive	The President **is to visit** China next week.	formal arrangements, official plans, orders (news style)
be about to	Hurry — the train **is about to leave**.	on the point of; immediate future
only to	She ran to the platform, **only to find** the train gone.	infinitive of result; an unwelcome surprise
so as to / in order to	He left early **so as to avoid** the traffic.	formal purpose
the + noun + to-infinitive	She was the only one **to notice**.	infinitive after a noun
too / enough (revisited)	old enough **to know** better	degree + infinitive

Part A – Match the Structure

Match each sentence (1–6) to the use it expresses (a–f).

#	Sentence	Match	Use
1	All staff are to report to reception by 9 a.m.		a) immediate future
2	I was about to call you!		b) official instruction
3	He studied for years, only to fail the final exam.		c) formal purpose
4	They whispered so as not to wake the baby.		d) unwelcome result
5	She was the first woman to lead the party.		e) noun + infinitive
6	The talks are to resume on Monday.		f) scheduled arrangement

Part B – Complete the Sentence

Complete using the structure indicated in brackets.

1. The minister _____ a statement this afternoon. *(be + to / make)*
2. We arrived at the shop _____ that it had closed down. *(only to / discover)*
3. He spoke slowly _____ everyone could understand. *(so as to / ensure)*
4. Quick — the film _____ start! *(be about to)*

5. She was the last person _____ the office. *(noun + inf / leave)*

Part C – Rewrite Formally

> **Rewrite each sentence in a more formal register using the structure in brackets.**

1. The company will launch the product in June. *(be + to)*

_____

2. He turned down the music because he didn't want to disturb the neighbours. *(so as not to)*

_____

3. They opened the box and were disappointed to find it empty. *(only to)*

_____

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Analysis and Extended Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Part A – Text Analysis

The expedition was to have set out at dawn, but the weather forced a delay. By the time the team finally left, they were said to be several hours behind schedule. Reaching the first camp, they were dismayed to discover that supplies believed to have been delivered the previous week had never arrived. The leader, known to have crossed the range twice before, remained calm. She had learned long ago not to expect conditions to be predictable. They pressed on, only to be turned back by a storm that seemed to have come from nowhere — the mountain, as ever, refusing to be conquered on schedule.

Questions

1. Identify every infinitive construction. Classify each: simple, perfect, continuous, passive, or a combination; and note any special structure (*be to, only to*, reporting passive).

2. "was to have set out" combines *be* + *to* with a perfect infinitive. What special meaning does this combination carry?

3. "believed to have been delivered" — unpack this fully: voice, aspect, and what the reporting passive achieves.

4. "only to be turned back" — explain how this construction shapes the reader's expectations, and why the passive is used.

5. "refusing to be conquered" — identify the infinitive form and comment on the effect of the personification.

Part B – Extended Writing

Write a narrative or report paragraph (**160–190 words**) about an event that did not go as planned. You must include and underline: (1) a perfect infinitive; (2) a passive infinitive; (3) a reporting passive (*is said/believed/thought to…*); (4) an *only to* construction; (5) a *be* + *to* or *be about to* structure.

Word count: _____ Features: _____ / 5

Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B2 Level, Infinitives

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 perfect (passive sense via "believed") — to have escaped = perfect active · 2 continuous · 3 passive (simple) · 4 perfect continuous · 5 perfect passive

> *Item 1: "to have escaped" is a perfect active infinitive; the passive framing comes from "are believed", the main verb. Distinguish the reporting passive (main clause) from the infinitive's own voice (subordinate) — a subtle but important separation.*

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 to have forgotten · 2 to be invited · 3 to have read · 4 to be having · 5 to have been painted

Worksheet 1 – Part C

1 …is believed to earn millions. **2** …is thought to have started in bats. **3** …is known to have lied before. **4** …is said to be losing money.

> *Note how the infinitive's aspect tracks the original tense: present → simple infinitive (to earn); present perfect/past → perfect infinitive (to have started); present continuous → continuous infinitive (to be losing). This mapping is the heart of the exercise.*

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 set (completed — "completely below the horizon") · 2 singing (in progress, heard in passing) · 3 take (completed action + run off) · 4 vibrate (completed, then answered) · 5 playing (ongoing scene) · 6 leave (completed — the whole departure)

> *Both forms are often grammatical; what's assessed is whether the student's justification matches their choice. Where the context signals completion ("completely", "and ran off"), the bare infinitive is preferred; where it signals an ongoing backdrop, -ing.*

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 The man was seen to enter the building. **2** The suspect was heard to make a phone call. **3** She was seen to leave the party alone.

Worksheet 2 – Part C

1 (a) I watched the whole job from start to finish; (b) I watched it in progress, for some of the time. **2** (a) bare infinitive = a single, complete, punctual event (the explosion happened, heard whole); (b) -ing = an ongoing sound she was aware of over a period.

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1–b · 2–a · 3–d · 4–c · 5–e · 6–f

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 is to make **2** only to discover **3** so as to ensure **4** is about to **5** to leave

Worksheet 3 – Part C

1 The company is to launch the product in June. **2** He turned down the music so as not to disturb the neighbours. **3** They opened the box, only to find it empty.

Worksheet 4 – Part A

#	Construction / classification
1	**was to have set out — be + to + perfect infinitive (unfulfilled arrangement)**
2	**said to be several hours behind — reporting passive + simple infinitive**
3	**believed to have been delivered — reporting passive + perfect passive infinitive**
4	**known to have crossed — reporting passive + perfect infinitive**
5	**not to expect — negative simple infinitive (after "learned")**
6	**to be predictable — passive-form simple infinitive complement**
7	**only to be turned back — infinitive of result + passive infinitive**
8	**seemed to have come — perfect infinitive; refusing to be conquered — passive infinitive after refuse**

Q2: *was to have set out* = a planned arrangement that did **not** happen. *Be + to* alone states a plan; adding the perfect infinitive signals the plan was unfulfilled — the expedition should have left at dawn but didn't.
Q3: Voice: passive (supplies received the delivering). Aspect: perfect (before the reaching). The reporting passive "believed" attributes the belief to unnamed people while keeping the supplies as topic — and sets up the irony that the belief was false.
Q4: *only to* primes the reader for a reversal: effort leads to an unwelcome outcome. The passive (*to be turned back*) removes agency from the team — they didn't choose to turn back; the storm forced them, reinforcing their helplessness.
Q5: Passive infinitive after *refuse*. Personifying the mountain as *refusing to be conquered* grants it agency and will, closing the paragraph on the theme of nature's indifference to human schedules.

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Perfect infinitive	to have + pp; anteriority correctly signalled	0–5
Passive infinitive	to be + pp; subject genuinely receives action	0–5
Reporting passive	is said/believed/thought to…; aspect matches	0–5
only to	Infinitive of result; unwelcome reversal conveyed	0–5
be to / be about to	Arrangement or imminence correctly expressed	0–5
Task & register	160–190 words; controlled narrative/report style	0–5