

# Verb Patterns & Causatives: Influencing Others

INTERMEDIATE

## Focus: want / expect / ask, would like / prefer, Reporting Verbs (tell/warn), Causatives (make/let), & Common Errors (suggest)

When one verb follows another, or when we want to influence someone else's actions, English uses specific patterns. We often use an **Object** (the person being influenced) between the two verbs.

### 1. Verb + Object + To-Infinitive

This is the most common pattern for verbs of "influencing," "wanting," or "reporting."

- **Structure:** Subject + **Verb** + **Object** + **to + infinitive**

| Group               | Verbs                                                         | Examples                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Volition (Wanting)  | want, would like, would prefer, expect                        | I <b>want</b> <i>him</i> <b>to help</b> me.<br>We <b>would like</b> <i>you</i> <b>to come</b> .<br>She <b>expects</b> <i>the team</i> <b>to win</b> . |
| Directives (Orders) | tell, order, force, command                                   | She <b>told</b> <i>me</i> <b>to sit</b> down.<br>They <b>forced</b> <i>him</i> <b>to sign</b> the paper.                                              |
| Communication       | ask, remind, warn, advise, invite, persuade, encourage, allow | He <b>asked</b> <i>us</i> <b>to wait</b> .<br>Please <b>remind</b> <i>her</i> <b>to call</b> .<br>I <b>warned</b> <i>them</i> <b>not to touch</b> it. |

**Note on Negatives:** To make the second verb negative, put **not** before **to**.

- *Correct:* I advised him **not to go**.
- *Incorrect:* I advised him to **not go**.

### 2. Causative Verbs: Make and Let (No 'To')

These verbs express permission or obligation. They are special because they are followed by the **Bare Infinitive** (verb without 'to').

- **LET (Permission):** let + person + **verb**
  - *Correct:* My dad **lets** *me* **drive** his car.
  - *Incorrect:* My dad lets me **to drive** his car.
- **MAKE (Obligation):** make + person + **verb**
  - *Correct:* The teacher **made** *us* **do** extra homework.
  - *Incorrect:* The teacher made us **to do** extra homework.

**CRITICAL EXCEPTION (Passive Voice):** If 'make' is used in the passive voice, we **MUST** use 'to'.

- *Active:* They made him confess.
- *Passive:* He **was made to** confess.

### 3. The "Suggest" Trap

The verb **suggest** is different. You **CANNOT** use "suggest someone to do something."

- **Incorrect:** ~~She suggested me to buy the blue one.~~
- **Correct (Structure A):** Suggest + **that** + clause (Subject + Verb)
  - Ex: She **suggested that I buy** the blue one.
- **Correct (Structure B):** Suggest + **gerund** (-ing) (if no person is mentioned)
  - Ex: She **suggested buying** the blue one.

# Practice Exercises

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**Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs provided.**

## Instructions:

1. Conjugate the **first verb** (main verb) based on the context (Past, Present, or Future).
2. Put the **second verb** (action) into the correct pattern:
  - *to + infinitive* (e.g., to go)
  - *bare infinitive* (e.g., go)
  - *that-clause* (for 'suggest')
3. Pay attention to **negatives** (not) and **questions**.

## Examples:

- (tell / he / wait) -> *She **told him to wait** outside.*
- (make / they / clean) -> *He **makes them clean** the room.*
- (not / allow / we / park) -> *They **didn't allow us to park** here.*

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1. I simply cannot believe they \_\_\_\_\_ (make / you / work) simply late last night!
  2. The doctor \_\_\_\_\_ (advise / my father / stop) smoking immediately.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ (you / would like / I / help) you with your luggage?
  4. The police officer \_\_\_\_\_ (warn / the pedestrians / not / cross) the street while the light was red.
  5. Why \_\_\_\_\_ (the teacher / let / the students / leave) early yesterday?
  6. My boss \_\_\_\_\_ (expect / all employees / be) in the office by 9:00 AM every day.
  7. Please \_\_\_\_\_ (remind / Sarah / bring) the documents to the meeting tomorrow.
  8. We were shocked when the bank \_\_\_\_\_ (not / allow / we / open) a new account.
  9. \_\_\_\_\_ (what / make / she / change) her mind about the trip?
  10. Even though he was tired, he \_\_\_\_\_ (was made / finish) the report before going home.
  11. I \_\_\_\_\_ (suggest / that / you / take) a taxi because it is raining heavily.
  12. \_\_\_\_\_ (your parents / not / want / you / go) to university?
  13. The rainy weather \_\_\_\_\_ (encourage / us / stay) indoors and watch movies.
  14. If you are caught cheating, you \_\_\_\_\_ (will / be made / retake) the entire course.
  15. She \_\_\_\_\_ (persuade / her friends / not / buy) tickets for that terrible movie.
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## Answer Key

1. **made you work** (Causative 'make' + bare infinitive)
2. **advised my father to stop** (Verb + Object + to-infinitive)
3. **Would you like me to help** (Would like + Object + to-infinitive)
4. **warned the pedestrians not to cross** (Warn + Object + not + to-infinitive)
5. **did the teacher let the students leave** (Causative 'let' + bare infinitive)
6. **expects all employees to be** (Expect + Object + to-infinitive)
7. **remind Sarah to bring** (Remind + Object + to-infinitive)
8. **didn't allow us to open** (Allow + Object + to-infinitive)
9. **What made her change** (Causative 'make' + bare infinitive)
10. **was made to finish** (Passive 'make' + to-infinitive)
11. **suggest that you take** (Suggest + that + clause; never 'suggest you to take')
12. **Don't your parents want you to go** (OR *Didn't your parents want you to go*) (Want + Object + to-infinitive)
13. **encouraged us to stay** (Encourage + Object + to-infinitive)
14. **will be made to retake** (Passive 'make' + to-infinitive)
15. **persuaded her friends not to buy** (Persuade + Object + not + to-infinitive)