

Adjectives with Infinitives: Evaluating Behavior and Difficulty

INTERMEDIATE

Focus: It is hard to understand, Subject-verb-adjective-infinitive, Easy/Impossible/Safe, Adjective + Noun + To structure, It is nice of you to, Silly/Kind/Generous/Stupid, Adjectives of character and behavior, Prepositional phrases in grammar, Sorry to hear, Surprised to see

1. General Difficulty and Opinions (It is + Adjective + To-infinitive)

We use the structure **It is + Adjective + To-infinitive** to give an opinion about a situation or action.

- **Structure:** It + be + adjective + to + verb
- **Adjectives:** *hard, difficult, easy, impossible, dangerous, safe, expensive, cheap, interesting.*

Examples:

- *It is hard to understand him when he speaks fast.*
- *It isn't safe to swim in this river.*
- *Is it expensive to fly to Japan?*

2. Reacting to Situations (Adjective + To-infinitive)

We use **Adjective + To-infinitive** to show how someone feels about an event.

- **Structure:** Subject + be + adjective + to + verb
- **Adjectives:** *sorry, surprised, happy, glad, sad, amazed, shocked.*

Examples:

- *I was surprised to see her at the party.*
- *We are sorry to hear about your problem.*
- *She was happy to help us.*

3. Evaluating Behavior (It is + Adjective + OF + Person + To-infinitive)

When we criticize or praise someone's behavior/character, we use the preposition **OF** before the person, followed by the infinitive.

- **Structure:** It + be + adjective + **OF** + person + to + verb
- **Adjectives:** *nice, kind, generous, polite, silly, stupid, rude, careless, clever, brave.*

Examples:

- *It was kind of you to help me with my homework.*
- *It is silly of him to spend all his money.*
- *It was rude of them not to say thank you.*

4. Ordinals and Superlatives (The first/best + To-infinitive)

We use the to-infinitive after ordinal numbers (*first, second, last*) and superlatives (*best, most interesting*).

Examples:

- *Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon.*
- *This is the best thing to do.*

Practice: Fill in the Blanks

Instructions: Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb provided. You may need to add "to", "of", or auxiliary verbs depending on the structure. Pay attention to negatives (not/verb) and questions (subject/verb).

1. It is very difficult _____ (find) a parking space in the city center.
2. It was very kind _____ (you/help) me carry these heavy bags.
3. _____ (it/be/safe/drink) the tap water in this country?
4. I was amazed _____ (discover) that they are actually twins.
5. It was careless of him _____ (not/lock) the front door when he left.
6. She was the first person _____ (arrive) at the meeting.
7. _____ (it/be/hard/learn) to drive a car?
8. It is extremely generous _____ (she/pay) for everyone's dinner.
9. We were very sorry _____ (hear) that you failed the exam.
10. It _____ (not/be/easy/work) when there is so much noise.
11. It was rude of them _____ (not/invite) Sarah to the wedding.
12. _____ (you/be/surprised/see) John at the library yesterday?
13. The most important thing _____ (do) is to stay calm.
14. It _____ (not/be/polite/interrupt) people when they are speaking.
15. It was silly of me _____ (think) that I could finish this in one hour.

Answer Key

1. **to find**
2. **of you to help**
3. **Is it safe to drink**
4. **to discover**
5. **not to lock**
6. **to arrive**
7. **Is it hard to learn**
8. **of her to pay**
9. **to hear**
10. **isn't easy to work** (or *is not easy to work*)
11. **not to invite**
12. **Were you surprised to see**
13. **to do**
14. **isn't polite to interrupt** (or *is not polite to interrupt / wasn't polite to interrupt*)
15. **to think**