

## Tenses of the Infinitive

The infinitive has four tenses in the active and two in the passive.

Tenses of the Infinitive		
	Active	Passive
Present	(to) give	(to) be given
Pres. Cont.	(to) be giving	_____
Perfect	(to) have given	(to) have been given
Perf. Cont.	(to) have been giving	_____

### Active

- ◆ **present infinitive:** refers to the present or future.  
e.g. She wants **to talk** to him now. (present)  
Sandra wants **to move** to a new house next year. (future)
- ◆ **present continuous infinitive: (to) be + -ing**  
It describes an action happening now.  
e.g. He is believed **to be hiding** somewhere in the mountains.
- ◆ **perfect infinitive: (to) have + past participle**  
It refers to the past and shows that the action of the infinitive happened before the action of the verb.  
e.g. She claims **to have met** Richard Gere. (First she met Richard Gere, then she claimed that she **had met** him.)
- ◆ **perfect continuous infinitive: (to) have + been + -ing**  
It refers to the past and emphasises the duration of the action of the infinitive, which happened before the action of the verb.  
e.g. She is tired. She claims **to have been working** hard lately. (We emphasise what she has been doing lately.)

The perfect infinitive is used with verbs such as *seem, appear, believe, know, claim, expect* and the modal verbs.

### Passive

- ◆ **present infinitive: (to) be + past participle**  
e.g. He hopes **to be given** a pay rise soon.
- ◆ **perfect infinitive: (to) have been + past participle**  
e.g. He is said **to have been injured** in an accident.

The verb tenses corresponding to the tenses of the infinitive are as follows:

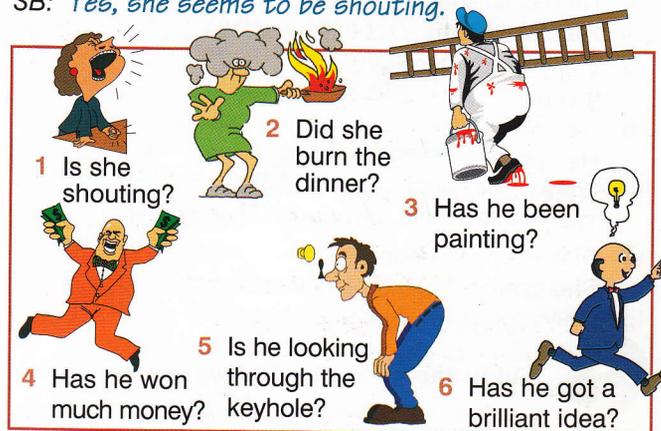
Verb tenses	Infinitive
he goes / will go	→ <b>to go</b>
he is going / will be going	→ <b>to be going</b>
he went / has gone / had gone / will have gone	→ <b>to have gone</b>
he was going / has been going / had been going / will have been going	→ <b>to have been going</b>

2

In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts below, as in the example.

SA: *Is she shouting?*

SB: *Yes, she seems to be shouting.*



3

A **Monica Collins is a famous actress. She is going on holiday to another country. Using the prompts given, say what she expects to be done on her arrival, as in the example.**

e.g. *She expects to be met at the airport.*

- meet at the airport
- give some flowers
- drive to the hotel
- photograph for newspapers and magazines
- invite to appear on TV

B **Monica is back home now. Things didn't happen the way she expected them to. Look at the prompts above again and make sentences, as in the example.**

e.g. *She expected to have been met at the airport.*

4

Fill in the correct infinitive tense.

- I think he left. He must ...*have left*.....
- I think they will come. They must *come*.....
- I think she is studying. She must *be studying*.....
- I think it will be delivered. It must *be delivered*.....