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AEIS English

Grammar Focus 2 — Infinitives

'to' + the base verb

Secondary · Student

Free AEIS English grammar practice for the Secondary intake.
Learn the 'to + base verb' rule that trips up many students,
with a clear explanation and 30 practice questions.

AEIS Secondary · English grammar practice

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AEIS ENGLISH · GRAMMAR FOCUS

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语法专项 2 不定式：to + 动词原形

After the word **to** (the infinitive), English always uses the plain **base** verb — never the past or -ed form. This is a small rule that fixes a very common AEIS error.

在 to（不定式）后面，英语永远用动词原形（最简单的形式），不加 -ed，也不用过去式。这个小规律能修正 AEIS 中很常见的一类错误。

The rule · 语法要点

- The **infinitive** is **to + base verb**: *to prove, to win, to try, to mess up*. The verb never changes here.
- Verbs like **need, want, try, hope, decide, learn** are followed by **to + base verb**: *you need to try* — not *to tried*.
- It stays the base form even in a past-tense story: *I wanted to prove myself* — **wanted** already shows the past, so **prove** stays plain.

不定式 = to + 动词原形，例如 to prove、to try。need / want / try 等词后面也接 to + 原形。即使句子是过去时，to 后面的动词仍用原形（由前面的动词表示过去）。

Common mistakes to avoid · 常见错误

Common mistake	Correct
I wanted to proved myself.	I wanted to prove myself.
You need to tried harder.	You need to try harder.
She decided to joined the club.	She decided to join the club.
It is okay to messed up once.	It is okay to mess up once.

Practice — 30 questions · 练习

The verb in brackets is in the wrong form. Write the correct BASE verb after 'to'.

1. I trained hard to _____ (proved) myself.
2. You need to _____ (tried) your best.
3. It is okay to _____ (messed) up once.
4. She decided to _____ (joined) the team.
5. We hoped to _____ (won) the match.
6. He wanted to _____ (showed) everyone his skill.
7. I began to _____ (felt) nervous.
8. They agreed to _____ (helped) us carry the bags.
9. I forgot to _____ (brought) my racket.

10. She promised to _____ (called) me later.
11. We planned to _____ (left) at dawn.
12. He learned to _____ (rode) a bicycle.
13. I need to _____ (finished) my homework first.
14. They chose to _____ (stayed) at home.
15. She refused to _____ (gave) up.
16. I hope to _____ (saw) you again soon.
17. We tried to _____ (fixed) the broken kite.
18. He offered to _____ (carried) my bag.
19. I want to _____ (became) a coach one day.
20. She managed to _____ (found) the answer.
21. We expect to _____ (arrived) by six o'clock.
22. I decided to _____ (told) the truth.
23. He seemed to _____ (understood) the rule.
24. They wanted to _____ (took) a photo.
25. I need to _____ (bought) new shoes.
26. She hoped to _____ (met) the champion.
27. We planned to _____ (built) a treehouse.
28. He promised to _____ (kept) it a secret.
29. I want to _____ (did) it by myself.
30. They agreed to _____ (came) early tomorrow.