

Prepare for {IELTS}

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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## Verb structures

VERB + OBJECT +  
INFINITIVE

# EXPLANATION

- There are many useful **VERB STRUCTURES** which can make your English more accurate, more fluent and more complex.
- You can use these structures in your IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests.
- You will often find these structures in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- One of the most common structures is **verb + object + infinitive**.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

We can use many verbs with objects and infinitives:

- permit; allow; enable; encourage;
- force; oblige; compel; command;
- instruct; warn; forbid; order;
- advise: persuade; tempt; cause;
- expect; help; implore; induce;
- ask; tell; urge; want;
- train; tell how; teach how; show how;
- remind: invite; bribe; entitle

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

We can use many verbs with objects and infinitives:

- We should **permit** **those aged sixteen and over** **to leave** school and **look for** a full-time job if that is what they want to do.
- Some argue that we should **allow** **athletes** **to take** as many performance-enhancing drugs as they want.
- Cities should be designed to **enable** **wheelchair-users** **to access** all public buildings and amenities.
- The government would like to **encourage** **farmers** **to switch** from arable to dairy farming wherever possible.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

We can use many verbs with objects and infinitives:

- Occasionally, governments **force** **residents** **to leave** their homes. A case in point was the building of a new runway for the capital's main airport. The authorities **obliged** **householders** **to sell** their properties to the authorities and re-locate.
- Some governments **compel** **young adults** **to complete** a period of military service.
- When officers **command** **soldiers** **to kill** prisoners, they should refuse, as this is an offence under The Geneva Convention.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

We can use many verbs with objects and infinitives:

- Many companies **instruct** **their staff** not **to make** private phone-calls whilst at work.
- Medical experts regularly **warn** **sun-bathers** **to wear** protective clothing and not **to spend** too long exposed to direct sunlight. The consequences of not heeding these warnings can be extremely unpleasant.
- I would love to come to the party but my mum **has forbidden** **me** **to stay** out late.
- Employers who **order** **their staff** **to do** things are usually less popular than managers with a gentler and more flexible approach.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

We can use many verbs with objects and infinitives:

- Many experts **have advised** potential buyers not **to purchase** a property, as prices were expected to fall further.
- Politicians have to try to **persuade** voters **to support** them. Most people involved in politics actually study forms of rhetoric in order to become more persuasive.
- Having access to a credit card often **tempts** young and immature adults **to purchase** far more than they need.
- The earthquake **caused** residents **to evacuate** the area.



# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

We can use many verbs with objects and infinitives:

- Teachers often **expect** **their pupils** **to complete** unrealistically large quantities of homework. Putting excessive pressure on students in this way is often counterproductive.
- Parents who **help** **their children** **to prepare** for exams by paying for private tutors are sometimes accused of acting unfairly. In effect, they are using their wealth to ensure that their child becomes successful.
- I **implore** **all governments** **to treat** migrants well.
- I'm afraid nothing would **induce** **me** **to work** as a security guard.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

We can use many verbs with objects and infinitives:

- Charities which **ask** **members of the public** **to donate** money are often overwhelmed by the generosity of the response.
- When scientists **tell** **us** **to worry** about the possibility that air quality could soon become unacceptably poor, we should listen.
- I would **urge** **all governments** **to pass** laws which guarantee equal rights for everyone.
- Parents often **want** **their children** **to study** subjects like medicine and engineering at university.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

We can use many verbs with objects and infinitives:

- If companies do not properly **train** **their staff** **to do** the job, they should not be surprised when things go wrong.
- I'm really sorry! I know you **told** **me** **how** **to get** to your house, but I've completely forgotten.
- We should **show** **children** **how** **to behave** well by setting a good example.
- My first day was quite interesting. They **taught** **me** **how** **to operate** a crane.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

We can use many verbs with objects and infinitives:

- If you see Carlos, please will you **remind** **him** **to give** me back the book he borrowed.
- She **invited** **me** **to go** to the conference with her, but I was too busy.
- Unfortunately, business leaders often **bribe** **officials** **to take** decisions which are not in the best interests of the public.
- I told him that just because he was my boss, that didn't **entitle** **him** **to tell** me what to do in my free time.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

This structure can be used with a passive form:

- When I was at school, **teachers** **were expected** **to use** corporal punishment.
- **Youngsters** **have** always **been warned** not **to smoke**.
- It is my strongly-held view that **smokers** **should not be permitted** / **should not be allowed** **to light up** a cigarette anywhere in public.
- **Parents** **ought to be entitled** **to take** their children out of classes if they disagree with what is being taught.
- **Politicians** **must be forced** **to reveal** information about their income in order to reduce the likelihood of bribery and corruption.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

This structure can be used with negatives. The negative form can be connected to either verb:

- I **do not expect** children **to behave** appropriately all the time.
- I **expect** children **not to behave** appropriately all the time.
- We **should not train** animals **to perform** circus tricks.
- We **need to warn** children **not to talk** to strangers.
- We **should try to persuade** intelligent graduates **not to leave** the country.
- My boss **asked** me **not to breathe** a word about my promotion, so don't say anything to anyone!

# VERB STRUCTURES

## VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

This structure can be used with other tenses:

- In the past, nobody **expected** **women** **to do** tough manual work.
- **I have been warned** on several occasions **not to miss** classes or arrive late for my lessons. (This is a passive form)
- **I will be expected** **to buy** an expensive car if I get that job. (This is a passive form)
- The government **used to encourage** **foreign workers** **to come** and **work** in the agricultural sector.
- If you **had warned** **me** **not to go** there on holiday, I would probably not have taken any notice.



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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## Verb structures

### LET AND MAKE

# EXPLANATION

- We can use the structure **to let somebody do something** or **to make somebody do something**.
- We use **let** when we give permission for somebody to do something, or say that somebody can do something if they would like to.
- We use **make** when we force somebody to do something, or say that somebody must do something.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## TO LET AND TO MAKE

- I believe that, as a society, we should **let people behave** in whatever way they want, provided that they do not cause physical or emotional harm to anybody else. Loosening the restrictions on individuals would lead to greater happiness.
- If schools **let their pupils learn** creatively, using their imagination, there would certainly be fewer incidents of violence and aggression in the classroom. Part of the problem is clearly that children are forced to learn in ways which seem alien to them.
- Staff in our office are always willing to help. If you ask anyone, I'm sure they'll **let you use** their computer.
- Some employers **let their staff work** from home for several days each week. This option is taken up by most employees.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## TO LET AND TO MAKE

The phrase **to let somebody know** means to give information which somebody would like to get:

- I am not sure if I will be able to attend the meeting. I will **let you know** as soon as possible whether I will be able to be free.
- If you can come to the party, please **let him / her / my brother know**.
- I was really annoyed because most of my family just turned up at our house yesterday without **letting us know** that they were coming.
- Although my boss **would have let me know** if she had been at work, she was ill that week, so she couldn't.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## TO LET AND TO MAKE

- Schools which **make their students learn** information by heart have been roundly criticised by educational experts, who claim that this method is both ineffective and damaging.
- It can be quite difficult to **make children eat** nutritious foods. Many of them have become addicted to so-called junk-food, and are unwilling to try healthier options.
- Some employers **make their staff work** from home for several days a week. Even employees who would rather come into the office are told not to.
- It **makes me feel** angry to read that so many young children have to go to school hungry.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## TO LET AND TO MAKE

- Banks have had to start **making customers bring** photographic identification when they want to withdraw money. This, it is argued, helps combat fraud.
- By **making animals perform** in circuses, wildlife parks and aquatic centres, we are surely treating them cruelly.
- If I told my mum I was thinking about becoming an actor, she **would make me promise** to do something more sensible.
- The teacher **made us stay** behind after class as a punishment for our bad behaviour.

# VERB STRUCTURES

## TO LET AND TO MAKE

We can use **make** in a passive structure. If somebody **is made to do something**, this person is forced to do something or told that they must do something. This is a useful formal structure. It cannot be used with **let**:

- **Many individuals** employed by companies in the IT sector **are made to sign** an agreement which prevents them from working for a rival firm in the future.
- **Everyone** **should be made to** either **spend** a couple of years in the army or an equivalent time doing service for the local community.
- When we behaved badly at school, **we were made to sit** in the corner of the classroom for an hour.





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**Prepare for IELTS**

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to complete the following sentences with a form of the verb **to let** or **to make**:

1. Everyone should be \_\_\_\_\_ to spend twelve month doing work in the community before going to university or into full-time employment.
2. I don't think pet-owners should \_\_\_\_\_ their dogs and cats go into the kitchen or bathroom.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ my daughter promise to call me as soon as she arrived in Barcelona. She wasn't very happy about it but eventually agreed.
4. If you copy another student's work, the teacher will \_\_\_\_\_ you do it again.
5. If your car has run out of petrol, you should phone your dad. He'll definitely \_\_\_\_\_ you use his.
6. Last week, I \_\_\_\_\_ my son go to school on his own for the very first time. He has been asking me to allow him to travel there on his own for months so he was delighted.
7. By \_\_\_\_\_ animals perform in circuses and by keeping them in zoos, we are causing them unnecessary pain and suffering.
8. Please could you \_\_\_\_\_ me know what time your train is expected to arrive so I can meet you at the station?
9. Some companies \_\_\_\_\_ their employees work all day on Saturday.
10. We should \_\_\_\_\_ children spend more time playing and expressing their creativity.

### ANSWERS

1. Everyone should be **made** to spend twelve month doing work in the community before going to university or into full-time employment.
2. I don't think pet-owners should **let** their dogs and cats go into the kitchen or bathroom.
3. I **made** my daughter promise to call me as soon as she arrived in Barcelona. She wasn't very happy about it but eventually agreed.
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10. We should **let** children spend more time playing and expressing their creativity.

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

The verbs **to let** and **to make** confuse IELTS candidates. In each of the following sentences, decide which verb is correct:

1. It can be quite difficult to **let/make** children eat nutritious foods. Many of them have become addicted to so-called junk food and are unwilling to try healthier options.
2. Staff in our office are always willing to help. If you ask anyone, I'm sure they'll **let/make** you use their computer.
3. Some employers **let/make** their staff work from home several days a week. Even employees who would rather come into the office are told not to.
4. Some employers **let/make** their staff work from home several days a week. This option is taken up by most employees, though some still prefer to come into the office.
5. I am not sure if I will be able to attend the meeting. I will **let/make** you know as soon as possible whether I will be able to come.
6. Many individuals employed by companies in the IT sector are **let/made** to sign an agreement which prevents them from working for a rival firm in the future.

## ANSWERS

1. It can be quite difficult to **make** children eat nutritious foods. Many of them have become addicted to so-called junk food and are unwilling to try healthier options.
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6. Many individuals employed by companies in the IT sector are **made** to sign an agreement which prevents them from working for a rival firm in the future.

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

The structure **to ask somebody to do something** is very useful for your IELTS Speaking and Writing. It can be used with other verbs such as **to tell, to invite, to encourage, to want, to advise, to warn** and **would like**. Look at the following sentences. Try to complete each sentence with a word from the list below:

**become; warned; politicians; do; you; to; not; their**

1. When health officials ask members of the public \_\_\_\_\_ avoid going outside in the hottest weather, it is essential that the elderly, in particular, take notice. Failure to do so could easily result in serious illness or even death.
2. Parents often tell their children \_\_\_\_\_ to cross the road without an adult.
3. I am writing to invite \_\_\_\_\_ to come to our house-warming party.
4. Teachers use a range of strategies to encourage \_\_\_\_\_ students to work as hard as possible.
5. Although my mother wanted me to \_\_\_\_\_ an engineer, my father advised me to \_\_\_\_\_ something I would enjoy rather than just focussing on earning money.
6. The police have \_\_\_\_\_ members of the public to take greater care with their personal details online, as internet fraud is on the rise.
7. I would really like \_\_\_\_\_ to start telling the truth instead of lying all the time.

### ANSWERS

1. When health officials ask members of the public **to** avoid going outside in the hottest weather, it is essential that the elderly, in particular, take notice. Failure to do so could easily result in serious illness or even death.
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7. I would really like **politicians** to start telling the truth instead of lying all the time.

### EXTRA

- A house-warming party = a party to celebrate the fact that you have moved into a new home
- Fraud = the crime of getting other people's money by deceiving them and lying to them

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to complete the following sentences with an appropriate verb form:

1. During the war, many prisoners were **fo**\_\_\_\_\_ to work in labour-camps.
2. I tried to **per**\_\_\_\_\_ my boss to give me a pay-rise, but she wouldn't.
3. If you had **t**\_\_\_\_\_ me not to take that job, I probably wouldn't have taken any notice of you.
4. In the past, nobody **ex**\_\_\_\_\_ women to do tough manual work.
5. Parents often **ex**\_\_\_\_\_ their children to be almost perfect.
6. Parents of young children ought to be **ent**\_\_\_\_\_ to take longer holidays from work.
7. The company **ins**\_\_\_\_\_ its employees not to open any suspicious-looking emails.
8. The tour guide **war**\_\_\_\_\_ us to look out for venomous snakes.
9. Those aged sixteen should be **pe**\_\_\_\_\_ to leave school and look for work.
10. We should **en**\_\_\_\_\_ former prisoners to go into schools and tell pupils about their lives.
11. We should **imp**\_\_\_\_\_ governments to take environmental issues far more seriously.
12. We should **sh**\_\_\_\_\_ children how to behave well by setting a good example.

## ANSWERS

1. During the war, many prisoners were **forced** to work in labour-camps.
2. I tried to **persuade** my boss to give me a pay-rise, but she wouldn't.
3. If you had **told** me not to take that job, I probably wouldn't have taken any notice of you.
4. In the past, nobody **expected** women to do tough manual work.
5. Parents often **expect** their children to be almost perfect.
6. Parents of young children ought to be **entitled** to take longer holidays from work.
7. The company **instructed** its employees not to open any suspicious-looking emails.
8. The tour guide **warned** us to look out for venomous snakes.
9. Those aged sixteen should be **permitted** to leave school and look for work.
10. We should **encourage** former prisoners to go into schools and tell pupils about their lives.
11. We should **implore** governments to take environmental issues far more seriously.
12. We should **show** children how to behave well by setting a good example.