

Lesson 9 / Handout 9d – Shortened infinitives

1. shortening to 'to' (leaving out the infinitive):

It's impossible to force people to do what their basic nature tells them not to (do).

*It's impossible to force people to do what their basic nature tells them not **to**.*

2. shortening down to the last element (leaving out *to* and possibly other elements such as auxiliary verbs):

I want to eat pineapples, (to) lie in the sun and (to) get brown.

*I want **to eat** pineapples, **lie** in the sun and **get** brown.*

I hope to be eating pineapples on a beach in Acapulco this time next week and (to be) enjoying myself.

*I hope **to be eating** pineapples on a beach in Acapulco this time next week and **enjoying** myself.*

She expected it to have been booked and (to have been) paid for already.

*She expected it **to have been booked** and **paid** for already.*

3. shortening of the passive infinitive, after the verbs such as *wish*, *want* + object + passive infinitive:

She wants it (to be) booked straight away.

*She wants it **booked** straight away.*

I didn't want my bags (to be) searched like hers.

*I didn't want my bags **searched** like hers.*

She wants his pocket money (to be) stopped for two months.

*She wants his pocket money **stopped** for two months.*

*She expected you **to book** it. = She thought that you **would book** it. (...že to zarezervuješ.)*

*She expected you **to have booked** it. = She thought that you **had booked** it. (...že jsi to zarezervoval.)*

- the perfect infinitive relates to time **before** that of the introductory verb (*expected* in this case).

References:

Gethin, H. (1992) *Grammar in Context*. Harlow: Longman. Chapter 10, pp. 100-103.