

181 Auxiliary verbs perfect infinitives

PEG 255

Use the perfect infinitive of the verb in bold type with a suitable auxiliary verb:

1 Tom: I had my house painted recently, but when they sent in the bill I was appalled. If I'd known it was going to cost so much I **not have** it done.

2 Peter: But it's your own fault, Tom. You **ask** for an estimate before letting them start.

3 Mother (very anxious about her son, aged ten): Where is he? He **be** here an hour ago! (*It's now 5.00 and he is usually home by 4.00.*)

4 Friend: He **go** to the playground to watch a football match.
Mother: No, if there'd been a match today he **tell** me. He always tells me all the football news.

5 Friend: His teacher **keep** him in as a punishment.
Mother: She **not keep** him an hour. Half an hour perhaps, but not an hour.

6 Friend: Then he **go** to a friend's house.
Mother: Yes, or he **be** knocked down crossing the street. He may be lying unconscious in hospital!
Friend: If that had happened the hospital **ring** you.
Mother: They **not ring** me. My phone isn't working!

7 Ann: He jumped out of the aeroplane and landed unhurt!
Tom: You mean he parachuted down?
Ann: He didn't say anything about a parachute.
Tom: He **have** a parachute. Otherwise he **be** killed.

8 Mary: I bought a sweater at Marks & Spencer's last Sunday.
Susan: You **not buy** it on Sunday. Marks & Spencer's is shut on Sundays.

9 Tom's had another accident. He came out of a side road rather fast and a lorry crashed into him.
It sounds like Tom's fault. He **wait** till the main road was clear.

10 I wonder who carried the piano upstairs. I suppose it was Paul. Paul **not carry** it by himself. Someone **help** him.

11 I was on the Circle Line and we were just leaving Piccadilly.
Then you **not be** on the Circle Line. It doesn't go through Piccadilly. You **be** on the Bakerloo Line or the Piccadilly Line.

12 The plane disappeared two weeks ago and no one knows what happened to it.
It **crash** into the sea. If it had crashed on land someone **report** it by now.

13. But what do you think caused the plane to crash" now. It **blow up**. Someone **plant** a bomb on board before take-off, or one of the passengers **have** explosives with him.

14. Or someone **try** to hijack the plane. And there **be** fight during which the plane crashed.

15. Or something **go** wrong with the engines, or it **be** a case of metal fatigue.

It **not be** metal fatigue because it was a brand new plane

16. The pilot **collapse** at the controls. But if that had happened the second pilot **take** over.

17. Maria (new to English customs): He said. 'How do you do?' so I told him about my last operation.

Ann: You **not do** that (*that wasn't the right thing to do*)

You say, 'How do you do?'. too.

18. It was the depths of winter and we had to wait eighteen hours in an unheated station.

You **be** frozen by the time the train arrived.

19. Jack: I've done all the calculations. Here you are-six pages.

Tom: But you **not do** all that work! We have a computer to do that sort of thing.

Jack: You **tell** me! Then I **not waste** all my time!

20. He failed the exam but he **pass** it (*he had the ability to pass it*).

It's all his own fault; he **work** much harder during the term.

21 He's not here! Yet I locked him in and bolted the door too, so he **not possibly open** the door from inside. And he **not get** out of the window; it's too small.

22. Somebody **let** him out. One of his friends **follow** you here and **slip** in when your back was turned.

23. Passenger: Fares are awful! I had to pay £2 for my ticket and £1 for the baby.

Another passenger: But you **not buy** a ticket for the baby. Babies travel free.

24 Immediately after drinking the coffee I felt very sleepy and the next thing I remember is finding myself lying in the middle of the road.

They **drug** your coffee and **dump** you there.

If I hadn't woken up when I did I **be** run over.

That **be** part of their plan (*it is possible that it was part of their plan*).

25 I found he knew all my movements for the past week. He **bribe** one of the other students to give him the information.

Or he **follow** you himself.

No, he **not do** that (*that is not possible*). I **see** him.

26 I stamped it and posted it. You **not stamp** it. It was a reply-paid envelope.

27 He walked from London to Cambridge in three hours.

He **not do** it in that time! Someone **give** him a lift.

28 I found that everything I said on the phone had been reported to the police.
Your phone **be** tapped.

29 My ring's gone! It was on the table by the window only a minute ago!
Who **take** it?

It **be** a magpie. There are some round here and they like shining things. A magpie **hop** in through the window and **snatch** it when you were out of the room (*this is possible*).

30 I had to walk home yesterday: I had no money for my fare. You **tell** me! I **lend** you the money!

31 I **not take** a taxi. I walk; it was only a hundred metres. (*I took a taxi but it wasn't necessary*)

32 The shoplifter thought she was unobserved but when she got to the door a store detective stopped her.
They **watch** her on closed-circuit television.

33 When I rang the exchange and asked for the number the operator said, 'You **not ring** the exchange! You **dial** the number direct!' However, he put me through.

34 One moment the conjurer's handkerchief was empty and the next moment it was full of eggs!
He **have** the eggs up his sleeve!

35 Well, I suppose he **have** eggs up his sleeve: but for his next trick he produced a bowl of goldfish out of the air. He **not have** a bowl of goldfish up his sleeve, now, could he?

36 Mary: My grandmother knew a girl whose fiancé was sent to prison for twenty years. This girl **marry** any one of a dozen men because she was a real beauty, but she waited till her fiancé came out of jail!

Jack: She **love** him very much.

Ann: She **be** an idiot!