

# Lesson 4: What is the difference between the BASE form and V/XO? Infinitives introduction

V/XO and BASE (Vb) look exactly the same, but they are used very differently in a sentence.

**Remember:** V/XO and V/XS make the simple present tense.  
 The simple present talks about habits and truths.  
*We take the subway every day.*  
*He takes the subway on Sundays.*  
*The sun rises in the east.*

→ Use **V/XO** with *I, We, You, or They* to talk about truths or habits in the "present tense".

VXO  
*I **study** on Sundays.*

→ **Vb** must always appear with one of its 13+ X-Words.  
 → Most X-Words match up with the base form.

X Vb  
*I **should study** every day.*

Do you remember? Which X-Words are followed by Vb?? Put a check ✓ by the X-Words that match with the BASE form. Review Lesson 3 if you can't remember.

- |           |           |            |          |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| ___ have  | ___ has   | ___ had    | ___ do   | ___ does  | ___ did  |
| ___ am    | ___ is    | ___ are    | ___ was  | ___ were  | ___ can  |
| ___ could | ___ shall | ___ should | ___ will | ___ would | ___ must |
| ___ might | ___ may   |            |          |           |          |

## A little bit about infinitives



- The infinitive in English is the "to BASE" form: to go, to feel, to eat
- Many languages use their infinitive like English uses its BASE
  - Yo debo estudiar. I must study. ~~I must to study.~~
- We abbreviate infinitives Vinf
- Infinitives look like verbs but act like nouns
- Sometimes infinitives answer "Why?" *I went to school to study marketing.*
- Don't confuse "to a place" with an infinitive. *I went **to school**.*
- Infinitives can follow certain verbs, such as *want, like, and need*.  
*Want to Vb, like to Vb, and need to Vb* are so common, that you will hear them reduced to "wanna," "liketa" and "needta Vb. → *Do you wanna dance?*
- *She wants to go to college.*
- *We like to watch TV.*
- *I need to buy eggs at the store.*

Remember: 1) An infinitive NEVER follows an X-Word.  
 NEVER-->He can to do it.

Remember: 2) an infinitive is ALWAYS "to Vb".  
 NEVER → Fashion was enough to makes me curious.

Lesson 4 Exercise 1

Directions: In each of the sentences below, the verb form is either BASE or V/XO. If you think the verb form in the sentence is the BASE FORM, put a circle around BASE. If you think the verb form is the no-s form of the simple present, put a circle around the V/XO.

The BASE form always appears with an X-Word.

V/XO never appears with an X-Word.

- 1     BASE   V/XO     My father and mother live in Brooklyn.
- 2     BASE   V/XO     My father may live to be 100 years old.
- 3     BASE   V/XO     They might take a trip to Hawaii in June.
- 4     BASE   V/XO     They usually take the subway into the city every weekend.
- 5     BASE   V/XO     They often go to a Broadway show.
- 6     BASE   V/XO     They don't go to musicals because they are too expensive.
- 7     BASE   V/XO     Students should try to enjoy the city, too.
- 8     BASE   V/XO     Do you enjoy Broadway shows?
- 9     BASE   V/XO     Students often think that they're too busy or too poor,
- 10    BASE   V/XO     but you can always find cheap and free things to do.

**Lesson 4 Exercise 2** Directions: circle the X-Words that go with Vb

have	do	am	can	must
has	does	is	could	might
had	did	are	shall	may
		was	should	
		were	will	
			would	

### Lesson 4 Exercise 3

Directions: Use these verbs to write 8 sentences: 4 sentences with the verb form V/XO and 4 sentences with BASE. Use one of these \*time expressions with V/XO.

*\*always      every day      on Mondays      once a week      on weekends*

	Verb	Form	Sentence:
1	call	BASE	_____
2	call	V/XO	_____
3	go	BASE	_____
4	go	V/XO	_____
5	eat	BASE	_____
6	eat	V/XO	_____
7	take	BASE	_____
8	take	V/XO	_____

### Lesson 4 Challenge exercise: Vb? V/XO? or Vinf???

Directions: Mark each X-Word, Vb, V/XO, and Vinf in the sentences below.

V/XO

1. My parents **take** the subway every day.
2. My mother can take the E train right to the building where she works.
3. They like to take the subway because it's fast and easy for them.
4. They don't care about the noise and the dirt and the rude people!
5. People who don't live in cities don't take subways.
6. They usually drive cars instead.
7. Since they have cars, they need to buy gas.
8. They also need to sit in traffic jams sometimes.
9. The best way to travel is probably to ride a bicycle.