
S131c_Perfect Infinitives

To express time preceding that of the main verb, the infinitive takes a perfect form: 'to' + *have* + past participle.

The parents were lucky *to have found* this specialist for their sick child.

The perfect infinitive can be used with progressive aspect to emphasize duration. This construction consists of 'to' + *have* + *been* + V-ing.

He was too scared of the police *to have been telling* lies all the time.

The tenant is thought to have been cooking at the time of the fire. [Ongoing action at an earlier time: The tenant was in the process of cooking when the fire broke out, as the investigators now believe.]

TASK ONE : FILL-IN-THE-BLANK: PERFECT INFINITIVE / PERFECT PROGRESSIVE INFINITIVE

Complete the sentences with the correct perfect infinitive form of the verb in parentheses (**to have + past participle** or **to have been + -ing**).

1. She was relieved _____ (finish) the report before the deadline.
2. They pretended _____ (not / see) the mistake in the contract.
3. The engineer claims _____ (work) on the project for over a year when the company cancelled it.
4. The witness is believed _____ (lie) about his whereabouts.
5. The team was proud _____ (develop) a more efficient prototype than their competitors.
6. The neighbours are said _____ (argue) loudly just before the police arrived.
7. He felt stupid _____ (forget) such important documents at home.
8. The CEO appears _____ (consider) several options before making her final decision.

TASK TWO : TRANSLATION EXERCISE (FRENCH → ENGLISH)

Translate the following sentences into English, using the **perfect infinitive** or **perfect progressive infinitive**.

1. Ils semblent **avoir oublié** d'envoyer le dossier complet.
2. Elle regrette **d'avoir été** aussi dure avec son équipe.
3. Le suspect prétend **avoir été en train de travailler** au moment du vol.
4. Le projet est censé **avoir été abandonné** depuis longtemps.
5. Il nie **avoir menti** à propos des résultats de l'enquête.
6. Les employés sont heureux **d'avoir réussi** à respecter toutes les exigences techniques.
7. Le technicien affirme **avoir été en train de réparer** la machine lorsque la panne générale s'est produite.
8. Le rapport semble **avoir été modifié** juste avant la réunion.