

3.3

GRAMMAR

Infinitives

I can use various infinitive structures.

- SPEAKING** Read the beginning of an article about the Tamagotchi Effect. Discuss what you think the positive and negative results of the effect are.

THE TAMAGOTCHI EFFECT

Scientists have created the term the Tamagotchi Effect to refer to how people can become emotionally attached to inanimate objects, such as machines, robots or computer software.

- Read the rest of the article and check your ideas.

The phenomenon dates back to 1996, when a Japanese company was **the first to market** a toy in which a newborn creature **is to be looked after** and brought to adulthood by its carer. **To keep their virtual friend alive**, the user constantly needs to feed and play with it.

Researchers have studied the attraction and concluded that users become **determined to raise** their new buddy successfully as this fulfils the basic human **need to nurture** relationships. However, they warn depending so much on these figures can potentially lead to isolation from the real world.

Although the trend for virtual friends **failed to take off** in Europe to the same extent that it did in Japan, software companies, **not to be deterred** by the apparent risks to consumers, have continued to develop and modernise the concept, resulting in sales of over seventy-six million worldwide. **To be emotionally attached to gadgets** is perhaps not as uncommon as it would at first seem.

- Read the GRAMMAR FOCUS and find an example of each infinitive structure in the text in Exercise 2.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Infinitives

You can use the infinitive for a number of different reasons.

- after some verbs

Note: In some phrases after verbs, e.g. *to be* + *to do sth* the infinitive is used to talk about a rule or arrangements for the future.

- after certain adjectives
- after certain nouns
- after a superlative or an ordinal number
- to indicate purpose

Note: To avoid monotony in writing, you can put the infinitive of purpose before the subject or directly after it.

- as the subject of a sentence

Each of the infinitive structures can be:

- active or passive, e.g. *You need to look after it.*
→ *It needs to be looked after.*
- simple, perfect or progressive, e.g. *to play, to have played, to be playing, to have been playing.*



- In your notebook, complete the sentences with the correct positive or negative infinitive (passive or active) of the verbs in brackets.

- I've never had the opportunity **to play** (play) with a virtual pet.
- Robotics companies, **?** (leave out), are also keen on developing the idea of virtual friends.
- He simply refused **?** (interrupt) while playing with his new friend.
- I was surprised **?** (find out) that I couldn't stop playing.
- A cute baby dinosaur is probably the best creature **?** (look after) by a novice carer.
- ?** (have) a pet of any kind is to deprive a child of early emotional development.

- USE OF ENGLISH** In your notebook, complete the second sentence using the word in capitals so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use no more than five words including the word in capitals.

- Making the experience of owning virtual pets as realistic as possible is the goal of game designers. **TRIED**
Game designers **have tried to make** the experience of owning virtual pets as realistic as possible.
- To have my own virtual friend would be thrilling. **THRILLED**
I'd **?** my own virtual friend.
- Humans often become attached to things which do not have any emotions. **TEND**
Humans **?** attached to things which do not have any emotions.
- I always get the latest gadgets before everybody else. **QUICKEST**
I'm always **?** the latest gadgets.
- Companies will surely develop more emotionally sophisticated robots in the future. **SURE**
Companies **?** more emotionally sophisticated robots in the future.

- SPEAKING** Look at the sentences in Exercise 5. Discuss to what extent you agree or disagree with each statement.

Grammar pages 122–123