

Infinitive clauses introduced by for + noun/pronoun

An infinitive can have its own subject. Study the following sentences.

I will be happy to wash the car. (I will wash the car.)

I will be happy for Max to wash the car. (Max will wash the car.)

To wait for Peter would be a great mistake.

For you to wait for Peter would be a great mistake. (NOT You to wait for Peter would be a mistake.)

Note that the subject of the infinitive is the object of the preposition for. Object forms of pronouns are used after for.

I will be happy for them to help you. (NOT I will be happy for they to help you.)

The structure for + noun/pronoun is used after nouns, adjectives and verbs which express ideas such as wishes and other personal feelings. Examples are: *anxious, eager, reluctant, delighted, willing, need, request, mistake, shame, ask, hope, wait, look, pay, arrange* etc.

I am anxious for him to reach home in time.

She is eager for us to see our work.

It is important for the meeting to be a success.

It is impossible for us to finish the job in time.

It seems unnecessary for him to quit his job.

It is time for everybody to go to bed.

I couldn't wait for them to finish talking.

We would be delighted for you to come and stay.

It is strange for her to be out so late.