

TO THE TEACHER

Lesson 4 is an extra and optional lesson for students (and teachers) who are confused by the differences between Vb and VxO. Indeed, some X-Word grammar people don't differentiate between the two when teaching.

There is also an introduction to infinitives. They are looked at again later on.

**Vb vs VxO**

Even though they look the same, these two *likes* have different jobs.

VxO

Vb

We **like** grammar. We don't **like** grammar.

Vb	VxO
"b" stands for <i>base</i> .	The O is the "o" in <i>do</i> .
Example: We should study English.	Example: We study English.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vb matches up with any of 13 X-Words: do, does, did, can, could, shall, should, will, would, must, might, may</li> <li>• Vb also matches up with semi-modals like ought to, used to, have to, am supposed to.</li> <li>• Vb never changes. It never adds an "s" or an "ed" or an "ing" or anything else. It just sits there and announces the action.</li> <li>• Vb never tells us about time</li> <li>• Vb never tells us about <u>person</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I should study</li> <li>○ We should study</li> <li>○ You should study</li> <li>○ You (pl) should study</li> <li>○ He should study</li> <li>○ She should study</li> <li>○ It should study</li> <li>○ They should study</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VxO needs <b>do</b> as an X-Word.</li> <li>• VxO is <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> of the pair that makes up the "simple present" tense. VxS is its sibling.</li> <li>• VxO + VxS talk about habits and truths</li> </ul> <p>VxO tells us <u>a little</u> about person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I study</li> <li>○ We study</li> <li>○ You study</li> <li>○ You (pl) study</li> <li>○ <del>He study</del></li> <li>○ <del>She study</del></li> <li>○ <del>It study</del></li> <li>○ They study</li> </ul>

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This difference might not always be important, but it is an important difference in some languages. For example, if a person who speaks Spanish translates these sentences, the verbs are very different, not the same.

I **study** on Sundays. Yo **estudio** los domingos.  
I must **study** every day. Debo **estudiar** todos los dias.

**Infinitives**

Infinitives are introduced here, early on, because they cause so much confusion, especially with people who would like to use an infinitive rather than a base form. These two rules cover many errors:

- Never an infinitive after an X-Word. (I can ~~to~~ go)
- Infinitives never change form (never "to makes" "to studied", etc.)

Vocabulary for Lesson 4

284 different words.

**Grammar terms introduced:**

infinitives,

time expressions that go with VxO and VxS because they refer to habits (always, every day, on Mondays, once a week, on weekends, every weekend, always, often, sometimes, usually)

**Collocations from the exercises** (sorry it's very New York-centered)

a little bit

live in Brooklyn

Broadway shows

they are too expensive

cheap and free things to do

Hawaii

to take a trip to Hawaii

to sit in traffic jams

rude people

to study marketing

to watch TV