



Functions & Types of Infinitives

An infinitive is the most basic form of a verb, typically preceded by the word "to." In English, it comes in two forms: the "to-infinitive" (e.g., to run, to write) and the "bare infinitive" (e.g., run, write). They serve various functions in sentences, acting as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

Ex: To eat (To-infinitive)

Ex: Eat (Bare infinitive)

Functions of Infinitives

As a Noun

Infinitives can serve as subjects, direct objects, or subject complements.

Ex: **To sleep** is the only thing I desire right now. (Subject)

Ex: I like **to read** novels. (Direct Object)

Ex: My goal is **to graduate**. (Subject Complement)

As an Adjective

Infinitives can modify nouns, often answering the question of "which one?"

Ex: I need a book **to read**. (Which book? The book to read.)

As an Adverb

Infinitives can modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

Ex: I came here **to learn**. (Modifying the verb "came")

Ex: She is eager **to help**. (Modifying the adjective "eager")

Split Infinitives

A split infinitive is an infinitive that has an adverb between "to" and the verb.

Ex: To **boldly** go where no one has gone before.

Ex: She decided to **quickly** eat before the meeting.



Split infinitives are often considered more casual, but they are generally accepted in modern English. However, for formal writing, it's often advised to avoid them.

Infinitive Phrases

An infinitive phrase includes the infinitive and any accompanying objects, modifiers, or both.

Ex: To write a bestselling novel (To write + a bestselling novel)

Ex: To swim across the lake (To swim + across the lake)

Practice Exercise

1. Identify the infinitive in the following sentence: "She wants to visit the museum."
2. Turn the infinitive into a split infinitive: "To read"
3. For each sentence, identify the infinitive or infinitive phrase:
 - a) We hope to win the championship.
 - b) They're learning to speak French.
 - c) He agreed to help us with the project.
 - d) To swim in the ocean is refreshing.
 - e) She decided to quickly finish her work.
4. Determine the function of the infinitive in each sentence: noun, adjective, or adverb.
 - a) She likes to read.
 - b) The book to read is "1984."
 - c) They went to the park to play.
 - d) To sleep is a luxury these days.
 - e) She chose the dress to impress.
5. Take the given infinitives and create a sentence using a split infinitive.
 - a) To eat
 - b) To write
 - c) To think
 - d) To go
 - e) To sing
6. Correct the sentences that contain infinitive errors.
 - a) I like to of swim.
 - b) He should of know better.
 - c) They ought to not do that.
 - d) I decided to quickly to eat.