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An infinitive is a verb that functions as a noun, adjective, or adverb in order to express an opinion, purpose of an object or action, or answer the questions who, what, or why. An infinitive usually begins with the word "to" and is followed by the base form of a verb (the simple form of the verb that you would find in the dictionary). Examples of infinitives
include to read, to run, to jump, to play, to sing, to laugh, to sing, to laugh, to cry, to eat, and to go.Remember that although infinitives are verbs, they do not function as verbs, instead they are used as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. Let's look at some examples. Infinitives as NounsRemember that a noun is a person, place, or thing. When an infinitive is used as the
subject or direct object in a sentence, it functions as a noun. The sentence's subject performs the verb, while the sentence's direct object of the sentence. In this sentence, it functions as a noun. The sentence's direct object of the sentence. In this sentence, it functions as a noun. The sentence's direct object of the sentence object of the sentence. In this sentence, it functions as a noun. The sentence's direct object of the sentence object of the sentence. In this sentence object of the sentence object of the sentence object of the sentence.
case, the infinitive functions as a noun that expresses an opinion. It could be replaced with a person, place, or thing, as in, "I love pizza." Example 2:To help others is so important. In this example, we have the verb "is." Who or what is so important? The infinitive "To help." In this case, the infinitive "to help" is the sentence's subject. This means that the
infinitive functions as a noun in this sentence. Example of Infinitive "to eat." "To eat" is the direct object of "need" because it receives the action. This is an example of an infinitive being used as a noun. Example 2We can't play until
we find a ball to throw. What is the purpose of the infinitive is used as an adjective. Example 3Brenda left the camping trip early to recover from poison ivy. The infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive is used as an adjective. Example 3Brenda left the camping trip early to recover from poison ivy. The infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in the purpose of the infinitive in this example is "to recover." What is the purpose of the infinitive in the purpose of the 
"to recover" in this sentence? It gives us more information about why Brenda left the trip early. It modifies the verb "left." In this example, the infinitive functions as an adverb. Example 4Mom made my brother. "When the verb "made" is followed by an infinitive,
the infinitive loses the "to." It would be incorrect to write, "Mom made my brother to clean," or, "Mom made to clean," or, "Mom made to clean," or, "Mom made to clean," or, "It would be incorrect to write, "a mount to clean," or, "It would be incorrect to write, 
or describe nouns in a sentence. Example: Joel wants a book to read. In this sentence? It describes the book; Joel isn't looking for just any book, he's looking for a book to read. In this sentence, the infinitive
functions as an adjective. 4. Infinitives as Adverbs Adverbs modify or describe adjectives, verbs, or other adverbs also answer the question, "Why?" Infinitives function as adverbs when they are used to give more information about
adjectives, verbs, or other adverbs in the sentence. Example 1: The students were excited to go on a field trip. In this sentence, the infinitive "to go" gives us more information about the adjective "excited about (going on a field trip). In this
case, the infinitive functions as an adverb. Example 2: Mom is going to the store (to buy" in this example? The infinitive "to buy" gives us more information about the verb "going"; it tells us why Mom is going to the store (to buy dinner). This is another example of how
infinitives can function as adverbs. 5. Infinitives Without "To" Almost always, infinitives begin with "to." But infinitives without the "to." Example 1:When I heard the alarm clock ring, I knew it was time to get
up.This sentence uses the verb "heard" followed by the direct object, "alarm clock to ring," or, "I heard to ring." So, "alarm clock to ring." So, "alarm clock" is followed by the infinitive "ring" without the "to." We wouldn't say, "I heard to ring." So, "alarm clock to ring." So, "alarm c
the "to." Example 2:My mom helps me do my homework. This sentence uses the verb "helps," they drop the "to." In English, it doesn't sound correct to write, "My mom helps me to do my homework," or, "My mom helps to do." So, "me" is followed by the infinitive "do" without the
"to."This is another correct example of using an infinitive without the word "to."6. Can You Split Infinitives? Usually, no other word should come between "to" and the base verb that follows it. When this does happen, you get a split infinitive. For example, you might say: Ryan hopes to quickly eat his dinner so he won't miss his favorite show. In this
case, the word "quickly" splits the infinitive "to eat." Some English teachers will tell you that it's okay, especially in informal writing. When in doubt, simply avoid splitting the infinitive, while others might tell you that it's okay, especially in informal writing. When in doubt, simply avoid splitting the infinitive must be infinitive, while others might tell you that it's okay, especially in informal writing. When in doubt, simply avoid splitting the infinitive must be infinitive.
his dinner quickly so he won't miss his favorite show. Remember that infinitives are formed with the word to + the base form of a verb. Although infinitives are formed using verbs, they don't function as referred using verbs, they don't function as referred using verbs in a sentence. Instead, infinitives are formed using verbs, they don't function as referred using verbs in a sentence. Instead, infinitives are formed using verbs, they don't function as referred using verbs in a sentence.
many other languages. And some languages don't have infinitives at all! That means that this topic can be tricky if you're a learner. With this post: DOWNLOAD DUOLINGO FOR FREEWhat are infinitive verbs in English? Have you ever noticed an English verb
ending in -ed or -s? These endings tell us something about the verb, like whether it happened in the present or past, and sometimes also who did the action. On the other hand, infinitives don't specify a particular subject or time of an action. English infinitives have the word to before the base form of the verb: BARE FORM INFINITIVE eat to eat read
to read Infinitives vs. bare forms in EnglishThe only thing that the English infinitive tells us is the basic meaning of the verb itself—so the infinitives can occur after a main verb. I tried to call you. He wants to leave now. There are also certain cases where the
infinitive marker to is omitted. We call such an infinitive the bare form of a verb, or the bare form of to eat is eat. You'll use the bare form of to eat is eat. You'll use the bare form of to eat is eat. You'll use the bare form of to eat is eat. You'll use the bare form of to eat is eat. You'll use the bare form of to eat is eat. You'll use the bare form of to eat is eat. You should invite him. To negate infinitives, add not before to and
the main verb. To negate bare forms, like after modal verbs, add not before the bare form. I decided not to sell the house. When to use infinitives in EnglishWhen do
we need a verb form that doesn't specify details like person or tense? Common uses of infinitives include: 1. To show a reason or purpose: I called to talk. They're going to the store to buy bread. She left to do some work. 2. Following adjectives: I'm sorry to leave so soon. He's always happy to try new things. It's great to live so close to family. 3.
Following certain verbs: The table below shows common verbs that are often followed by an infinitive form with to: MAIN VERB EXAMPLE agree Zari agreed to babysit tomorrow. appear with another verb, but when they do, the second verb will be the infinitive form with to: MAIN VERB EXAMPLE agree Zari agreed to babysit tomorrow.
claim Eddy claims to run the fastest. decide They decided to eat now. demand I demand to leave immediately. deserve to be happy. expect We're expecting to have a good time. fail Junior failed to call his dad. forget I always forget to lock the door. hope He hoped to win the race. learn Bea learned to read very young. need I need to drink
some water. promise We promised to call every night. try They are trying to finish their homework. want He will want to watch TV. Some English verbs can be followed by either an infinitive or a gerund. In English, gerunds also don't show tense, and they are formed by adding -ing to the base form of the verb. (There are some important spelling rules
to know about them, too.) The table below shows common verbs that can be followed by either an infinitive or a gerund: MAIN VERB EXAMPLE WITH INFINITIVE EXAMPLE WITH GERUND hate She hated to run. She hated running. like You like to dance. You like to dance. You like to dance with them.
They preferred staying here. start I like to start my day early. I like starting my day early. I like starting my day early. When to use bare forms in EnglishSome common uses of bare verbs, the subject of the sentence causes someone to do or be what is indicated by the bare forms. Let her sit on the couch,
please. She made them be quiet. We had them watch the kids for the weekend. 2. In sentences with sensory verbs, like see, hear, and feel: I often see a child jump over the fence. They will hear a dog bark. He felt the spider crawl up his leg. 3. With the word why when used to make a suggestion: Why sleep on the floor when you can sleep on the bed?
Why wait? Why not go to a restaurant tonight? 4. After modal verbs: MODAL VERB EXAMPLE can I can see the moon. could They could I should study tonight. will She will cook dinner. would They would prefer to stay here. DOWNLOAD
DUOLINGO FOR FREEExamples of infinitives and bare forms in EnglishHere is a list of common infinitives and their bare forms: INFINITIVE BARE FORM to argue argue to ask ask to be be to become become to begin begin to call call to
carry carry to catch catch to change change to choose to clean clean to climb to come come to continue to cook to cost to cry cry to decide decide to die die to do do to draw draw to drink to find to
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to tell tell to think think to throw throw to touch to use the infinitive or not to use the infinitive? (a) Now you can answer with
confidence! Infinitives are a key part of English grammar. They can be used in various forms like nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. You'll also understand when to use infinitives, and adverbs. In this article, you will learn what an infinitive is and how to use it effectively in your sentences. The main sections covered include infinitives as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. You'll also understand when to use infinitives,
such as to indicate the purpose of an action or as the subject of a sentence. Additionally, examples and images will illustrate how to use infinitives - Created by 7ESL Infinitives as Nouns Keep in mind that a noun can be a person, place, or thing.
When used as a subject or direct object in a sentence, an infinitive phrase acts as a noun. In such a case, the subject assumes the role of a verb, whereas the direct object is the receiver of the action of the verb (to be liked). "To
watch" acts as a direct object of the sentence. Here, the infinitive acts as a noun that expresses a thought. To join hands with others is necessary. Here the infinitive phrase "to join" is the subject of the sentence. This is an indication
that the infinitive acts as a noun in this example. Infinitives as Adjective is a word that describes more information about a noun. An infinitive acts as an adjective if it modifies or describes a noun in a sentence. Example: Joyce needs a table to read on. Here "needs" is the verb, and "table" is the subject (noun). "To read" is the infinitive,
and it acts as an adjective. Infinitives as Adverbs An adverb is a word that modifies or describes an adjective, verb, or an adverb. It provides additional information regarding an adjective, verb, or adverbs An adverb is a word that the deceased had resurrected.
Here "to hear" is the infinitive. It gives additional information about the adjective "surprised." When to Use Infinitives To indicate the purpose of an action: He bought some flowers to give to his wife. I will lock the door to prevent theft. As the subject of the sentence: To wait* seemed foolish when decisive action was required.* To swim* in that sea
may be dangerous.* As the direct object of the sentence: I like to write in English. Everyone wanted to go. As subject complement: His ambition is to fly. What is essential is to maintain a healthy diet. As an adjective: This is the best time to practice. I have some jeans to wash. As an adverb: We must carefully observe to understand. I can't wait to see
After an adjective: It is important to be patient. It is wonderful to have close friends. After an object that is a noun or pronoun referring to a person: Can I ask you to help me with something? I invited a friend to attend the ceremony. Used with the question word: Do you understand what to do? Tell me when to press the button. An infinitive is the base
form of a verb usually preceded by "to." It does not show tense or subject but functions like a noun, adjective, or adverb. Infinitives correctly builds sentence clarity and supports writing and speaking accuracy. In this blog post, you'll learn the
forms, structures, and rules of infinitives step by step. An infinitive is the basic form of a verb. It usually comes with "to" and does not show time, person, or tense. Common Infinitives are formed by using the basic form of a verb, typically preceded by the word "to. They are easily recognizable due to their distinctive are formed by using the basic form of a verb, typically preceded by the word "to. They are easily recognizable due to their distinctive are formed by using the basic form of a verb, typically preceded by the word "to. They are easily recognizable due to their distinctive are formed by using the basic form of a verb, typically preceded by the word "to. They are easily recognizable due to their distinctive are formed by using the basic form of a verb, typically preceded by the word "to. They are easily recognizable due to their distinctive are formed by using the basic form of a verb, typically preceded by the word "to." They are easily recognizable due to their distinctive are formed by using the basic form of a verb, typically preceded by the word "to." They are easily recognizable due to their distinctive are formed by using the basic form of a verb, typically preceded by the word "to." They are easily recognizable due to their distinctive are formed by using the basic form of a verb, typically preceded by the word "to." They are easily recognized by the word "to." They are
structure: "to + base form of the verb." This structure remains consistent regardless of the subject or tense of the sentence. Whether it's "They want to travel," the infinitive structure remains the same. To + Base Form of the VerbFor example: To eatTo runTo studyTo writeTo walkInfinitives can be categorized into four main
types based on how they function in a sentence. Each has a specific structure and use case. A bare infinitive is the base form of the verb without "to". It's used after modal verbs (can, must, should, etc.) and certain verbs like make, let, help, see, and hear. Examples: You must go now. He made me laugh. Please sit here. The to-infinitive is the most
common form. It uses "to" + base verb. It appears after many verbs, adjectives, nouns, and in fixed phrases. Examples: He wants to travel. She likes to play badminton. They tried to convince her. A split infinitive happens when an adverb is placed between "to" and the verb. This form is widely accepted in modern English, especially to add clarity or
emphasis. Examples: She decided to quickly finish her work. He wanted to carefully examine the case. They tried to quietly leave the room. In a passive infinitive, the structure is "to be" + past participle. It shifts the focus to the action, not the person doing it. Examples: She decided to quietly leave the room. In a passive infinitive, the structure is "to be" + past participle. It shifts the focus to the action, not the person doing it. Examples: It's important to be understood. She wants to be invited. The car is to be
repaired.Infinitive TypeStructureUsageExample SentencePresent Infinitiveto + base verbShows present or general actions I like to eat pizza.Past Infinitiveto + base verb (with future marker)Implies future action using context/time
markerI will call you tomorrow. Perfect Infinitiveto have + past participle Emphasizes completed actions before anotherHe was happy to have finished work. Continuous Infinitives can act as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs depending on how
they are used.Infinitives work like nouns. They can be the subject, or part of a phrase. Examples: To travel is my dream. (Object of preposition) Infinitives can describe nouns and tell which one or what kind. Examples: The book to read is on the shelf. The decision to resign was
hard.Infinitives can tell why, how, or for what purpose an action happens.Examples:I woke up early to catch the bus.She studies hard to succeed.He worked late to finish the task.AspectGerundInfinitiveFormVerb + -ing (e.g., reading)To + base verb (e.g., to read)Grammatical RoleActs as a nounActs as a nounActs as a nounActs as a nounActs as a nounActs.
UsageRefers to general actions/activitiesOften shows purpose or intentionUsed AfterCertain verbs, as subject/objectExampleSwimming is healthy. I want to swim. Meaning Change He stopped smoking \rightarrow Quit the habit He stopped to smoke Infinitives can appear as part of
larger structures known as infinitive phrases. An infinitive phrases can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs in a sentence. Here are some examples of infinitive phrases: To study hard is the key to success. She loves to read books in her free time. He
worked late to finish the project on time. In each of these examples, the infinitive phrase is highlighted and its function is explained. He studies hard to pass his exams. They want to go on a vacation. Please let me helpHe wants to travel to Europe. I like to swim in the morning. I will eat lunch later. He decided to quickly finish the project. She ran fast to
catch the bus. His main goal is to succeed. My dream is to travel the world. She wanted to quietly leave the movie. The gift is too expensive to buy. He spoke softly to avoid waking the baby. Q1: What is an infinitive? An infinitive? An infinitive is the base form of a verb, usually preceded by the world "to" in English. It can
function as a noun, adjective, adverb, or simply as the base form of the verb. It is often used to express various functions and purposes in a sentence.Q2: What are split infinitives? Split infinitives occur when an adverb is placed between "to" and the base form of the verb (e.g., "to quickly learn"). While they were traditionally avoided in formal writing,
modern English often accepts split infinitives when they enhance clarity or emphasis.Q3: How do infinitives are the base form of a verb and are typically preceded by "to," while gerunds represent an
action.Q4: When should I use a bare infinitive?Use a bare infinitive?Use a bare infinitive?The zero infinitive?The zero infinitive is the
base form of a verb used without "to" in certain constructions. It is often found after verbs like "let," "make," and "help." For example sentences of infinitives: He should study harder for the exam. To travel is her lifelong dream. I hope to see you at the
party. Please sit down and relax. His goal is to win the championship.infinitives (to learn, to write) and bare infinitives (let go, help do). Mastering their usage enhances sentence structure, clarity, and fluency in both writing and
speech.Read more Infinitives are a special form of verbs that can be useful when discussing actions without actually doing the action, such as "I want to go home," or "To err is human." The infinitive form is crucial to English and
many other languages, but the grammar rules for infinitives can be tricky. In this guide, we explain all about the different types of infinitives are a form of verb
that allow the word or a group of words to be used as a noun, adjective, or adverb. Every type of verb can be put into the infinitive form, even phrasal verbs. Usually, infinitives are formed by adding the word to before the base form of the verb, as in to be, but sometimes the base form of the verb is used alone (we explain more in the next section).
The purpose of infinitives is to discuss an action in general instead of a specific instance of the action being done. For example, take a look at these two sentences: I need to win. The first sentence uses the infinitive form of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the sentence is actually "need." The second sentence uses the infinitive form of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the sentence is actually "need." The second sentence uses the infinitive form of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the sentence uses the infinitive form of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the sentence uses the infinitive form of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the sentence uses the infinitive form of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the sentence uses the infinitive form of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the sentence uses the infinitive form of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the main verb of the verb win as a noun; the verb win as a no
form of win as an actionable verb. In the first sentence with the infinitives, the action of "winning" is not actually done; the sentence simply discusses the idea of winning. The second sentence with the infinitives and bare infinitives. Below,
we explain when and how to use each. Full infinitives full infinitives, are the most common infinitives in writing. You can create a full infinitive by taking the base form of a verb and adding to in front of it. For example, the verb be—which is often conjugated to is, are, was, were, etc.—becomes the full infinitive to be, as in
Shakespeare's famous infinitive example from Hamlet: To be or not to be . . . Full infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitive example from Hamlet: To be or not to be . . . Full infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitive example from Hamlet: To be or not to be . . . Full infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitive example from Hamlet: To be or not to be . . . Full infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 To show purpose or intention Infinitives are used in the following situation Infi
I'm writing this email to tell you something important. Did you come to college to study or to party? Unlike an adverbial clause, an infinitive phrase used as an adverb does not need an active verb. 2 To modify nouns Just like how full infinitive phrase used as an adverb does not need an active verb. 2 To modify nouns. In this case, they act as
adjectives and adjective phrases. We need a hero to save us. Would you like something to drink? It was a dumb thing to say, and I regret it. 3 As the subject of the sentence, use the full infinitive form. To love someone requires patience and understanding. To go this late
seems pointless. To unlearn is the highest form of learning. 4 After adjectives Full infinitives can add context or extra description when used after adjectives. I'm happy to be here. Isn't it nice to leave the city? Computers are easy to use with practice, 5 With the words too or enough When using the adverbs too and enough, we use the full infinitive
to explain why. In these cases, the infinitive is often unnecessary, but it's nonetheless a helpful addition if the sentence is vague. I have too many books to fit in my backpack. We collected enough firewood to last the winter. They were old enough to vote but not to drink. 6 Phrases with most relative pronouns Use the full infinitive in phrases that
start with one of the relative pronouns who, whom, what, where, when, and how—but not why. I don't understand how to beat the Level 5 boss. Playing cards is about knowing when to fold them. Here's a list of whom to call in an emergency. Keep in mind that you only use full infinitives when relative pronouns are used as
phrases, but not typically when used for questions: I don't know what to do? 7 With certain verbs always use the full infinitive at all—but if they use an infinitive, it should be the full infinitive. afford agree aim appear arrange attempt beg
tend threaten trouble undertake used (as "used to . . ." for past habitual actions) volunteer vow want wish Bare infinitives, are formed without to—you simply use the base form of a verb within a sentence. As you can imagine, this gets confusing, but thankfully bare infinitives are less common than full
 infinitives. Bare infinitives are used in the following situations: 1 After modal verbs When using an infinitive after modal verbs, you don't need to include to. Common modal verbs include can, may, might, could, should, would, will, and must. Iggy can do this all day. We might be late tonight. You must not mention politics when talking to my father. 2
are related to infinitive phrases, which we explain in detail in the final section. 3 With the verbs let, make, and do Just like certain verbs let, make, and do Just like certain verbs let, make, and do. Keep in mind the verbs let and make often use a direct object, which comes between them
and the bare infinitive. Let me work in peace! He made him promise to behave. I don't drink coffee in the evening. 4 With the relative pronoun why While the other relative pronouns use the full infinitive form, the word why uses the bare infinitive, especially when used to make suggestions in the form of a question. Why wear a raincoat when it's
sunny outside? Why not ask for directions? Why bother? How do you use an infinitive, and continuous infinitive forms, there is some infinitive grammar: split infinitives, passive infinitives, and continuous infinitives.
Split infinitives A split infinitive is a full infinitive is a full infinitive that contains an adverb or adverbial phrase between to and the base verb, such as to hungrily eat. Split infinitives are a debated topic among grammatists, with some saying they should be avoided and others saying there's no official answer on whether or not they're
correct. In most cases, we recommend avoiding them when you can and using them only in some scenarios. In general, you can move the adverb after the infinitive and it still makes sense, that's probably best. This app helps you to quickly, easily, and
conveniently work. | This app helps you to work quickly, easily, and conveniently. However, there are two main exceptions for when split infinitives are preferable. First is when the adverb doesn't make much sense elsewhere. They need to read carefully translated manuscripts. In this sentence, it's unclear whether "carefully" relates to "read" or
"translated." By splitting the infinitive, it becomes clear that "carefully" refers to "read." They need to carefully read translated manuscripts. The second exception is for emphasis. Sometimes splitting the infinitive just sounds better than the alternative. Consider the famous opening to Star Trek: To boldly go where no one has gone before . . . It
be + the past participle. For example, if you want to turn to do into a passive infinitives and bare infinitives with both full infinitives and bare infinitives and bare infinitives. I was hoping to be given an A on my paper. She expected to be thrown the ball since she was open. Both doors should be locked at night. Continuous infinitives Like verbs.
in the continuous tense, continuous infinitives can be used for both full the verb, continuous infinitives use to be doing. Just like passive infinitives, continuous infinitives can be used for both full
infinitives and bare infinitives. I'd prefer to be sleeping right now. It would be a nightmare to be waiting outside in this storm. You must be joking! Infinitives often use to, be careful confusing them with prepositional phrases. To is a common preposition, but its use in infinitives is different. When to is
used in prepositional phrases, it always takes a noun as an object. We're going to the pool tomorrow. Roger confessed his love to the cashier. When to is used in an infinitive, it's followed by a verb. Even if the infinitive acts as a noun, it still contains the base form of a verb. We want to swim tomorrow. Roger tried to tell the cashier he loved her.
You can learn more about how to use to as a preposition in our previous guide on to vs. for. Infinitives are interchangeable, on a couple occasions only one is
correct. 1 Only gerunds can be the object of prepositions. I'm thinking about to go back to school. Infinitives are the base form of verbs preceded by the words "to run," "to eat," "to sleep" or "to be." They can function in various grammatical roles within English sentences: as nouns, adjective, or
adverbs words. Infinitives are versatile, allowing for expressions of purpose, intent, or potential actions. They are used in many constructions, including after certain verbs (like "want" or "hope"), adjectives (such as "happy" or "easy"), and to express reasons or objectives, exemplified in sentences like "She went outside to enjoy the sunshine.
Download Infinitives Examples in pdf What are Infinitives? An infinitive is the base form of a verb combined with the word "to." This form is versatile and used in various ways within English sentences. Infinitives are also integral in expressing purposes or intentions, often following particular verbs. These verbs include "want," "try," "learn," "decide,
and "promise," among others. For instance, in the sentence "She wants to travel next summer," the phrase "to travel next summer," the phra
types: bare infinitives and to-infinitives and to-infinitives. Each type has specific uses depending on the context in English grammar. 1. Bare Infinitives: These are the verb forms without the "to" particularly after modal verbs and certain other verbs. Examples of modal verbs include "can," "will," "shall," "may," and "must," as in sentences like "She can
swim" or "They must leave now." Additionally, bare infinitives follow verbs like "let," "make," "hear," and "help," which dictate or influence another action, evident in phrases such as "Let her go" or "Help me carry this." 2.To-Infinitives include the "to" particle and are the most versatile. They can act as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs
As nouns, they might express purposes or intentions, like in "To learn is to grow." When functioning as adjectives, they modify nouns, such as in "The book to read is on the table." Lastly, as adverbs, they explain the reasons for actions, evident in sentences like "She came to see you." to run to jump to play to sing to dance to read to write to cook to
study to learn to teach to paint to draw to travel to explore to discover to invent to create to dream to imagine to hope to wish to believe to understand to comprehend to achieve to succeed to fail to attempt to practice An infinitive phrase consists of an infini
associated with it. These phrases can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs in a sentence, providing additional information about actions, intents, or qualities. As noun phrases (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in life is my ultimate goal. (subjects or objects): To succeed in 
As adjectival phrases (modifying "bace") As adverbial phrases: He left early to catch the train. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "bace") As adverbial phrases: He left early to catch the train. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is the best place to eat sushi. (modifying "book") This is
(modifying "went") After certain verbs: He decided to go for a walk. She agreed to help with the project. They promised to start her new job. He was too tired to continue. After nouns: She had the ability to solve complex problems. It's his desire to travel the world
Here, "To understand quantum mechanics" acts as the subject. After certain verbs, an infinitive can serve as the object. Verbs that commonly take infinitives as objects include "want," "hope," "learn," "decide," "plan," "wish," and "attempt." For example, in the sentence "She hopes to graduate next year," "to graduate" is the object of the verb
 "hopes." One of the most common uses of infinitives is to indicate the purpose of an action. This explains why something is done. For example, "He went to the store to buy groceries." The phrase "to buy groceries" shows the purpose of going to the store. Infinitives can also act as modifiers, providing additional information about nouns or verbs.
 When modifying a noun, it usually follows the noun directly and explains a potential action. For example, "The decision to increase the budget was tough." Here, "to increase the budget" modifies "decision." When modifying a verb, it often provides reason or intent, as in "She paused to think." Infinitives are often used after adjectives to give more
detail about the feelings or opinions of the subject towards an action. For instance, "It is difficult to explain" complements the adjective "difficult." When used with verbs of perception such as "see," "hear," or "feel," the infinitive often appears without "to," known as the bare infinitive. For example, "I heard her sing.
Infinitives are versatile forms of verbs that can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs in sentences. Understanding the rules of infinitive usage can significantly enhance your writing and speaking abilities in English. Here are some key rules to guide you: To Express PurposeInfinitives are often used to explain why something is done. They answer
the question "why?". Example: "She went to the store to buy groceries." After Certain VerbsSome verbs are typically followed by infinitives, such as "agree," "decide," "hope," "plan," "promise," and "want." Example: "He hopes to travel to Italy next year." After Adjectives Infinitives can follow adjectives to complete their meaning, especially when
expressing feelings or opinions about something. Example: "It is difficult to understand quantum physics." To Form Passive VoiceInfinitives are used in passive voice constructions, especially when reporting speech or general beliefs. Example: "He is believed to be the best chess player in the country." As Subject of a SentenceSometimes, an infinitive
can be the subject of the sentence, usually when discussing actions abstractly. Example: "To walk every day is good for your health." After Question words like who, what, when, where, why, and how are used, infinitives can follow to complete a question or statement. Example: "I don't know what to do next." After Object
eat")Verb ending in "-ing" (e.g., "eating")FunctionCan act as nouns, adjectives, or adverbsPrimarily function as nounsPurpose ExpressionCommonly used to express purpose Use with Specific VerbsRequired after verbs like "decide," "hope," "learn" (e.g., "hopes to travel")Required
after verbs like "enjoy," "avoid," "finish" (e.g., "enjoys swimming")Subject or ObjectCan function as the subject or Object (e.g., "Swimming is fun")Meaning ChangesChoice between infinitive and gerund can change the meaning after certain verbs (e.g., "stop to rest" vs. "stop
resting")Consistent meaning as noun but can alter verb meaning with use (e.g., "hate running" vs. "hate to run") Here are some exercises designed to help you practice using infinitives in sentences. Each exercise includes a prompt and the correct response to check your understanding. Exercise 1: Complete the SentenceInstruction: Complete the
sentences by choosing the appropriate infinitive from this list: to eat, to read, to sleep, to write. I love
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   at a new restaurant downtown. He promised
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     early to catch the bus tomorrow. They decided
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               her a letter every week. Exercise 2: Identify the Purpose of the
Infinitive Instruction: Identify whether the infinitive "to succeed" acts as the object of the noun "plan") The best book to read is the one about human psychology. Answer: Adjective (the infinitive "to read" describes the noun "book") She
went to the store to buy groceries. Answer: Adverb (the infinitive "to buy" modifies the verb "went" indicating purpose) Exercise 3: Transform the SentenceInstruction: Rewrite the sentences replacing the gerund with an infinitive. She enjoys singing. Answer: She enjoys to sing. They stopped smoking. Answer: They stopped to smoke. He likes running
in the morning. Answer: He likes to run in the morning. Download Infinitives excercise with answers To speak multiple languages fluently opens many doors in one's career. I decided to take a long vacation after the project ends. He wants to learn how to cook Italian dishes. They agreed to meet at the new cafe downtown. To donate to charity each
month is part of their family tradition. She plans to start her own business next year. To watch the sunrise every morning is his way of finding peace. It's important to respond to all emails by the end of the day. They hoped to travel to Europe after graduation. To practice meditation daily helps her maintain mental clarity. To read books regularly is a
great way to expand your knowledge. To jog every morning boosts your energy for the day. To play an instrument can be incredibly rewarding. To drink enough water daily is essential for health. To drive fast in residential areas is dangerous. To laugh often is the secret
to a happy life. To protest peacefully is a fundamental right. To take risks is necessary for growth. She loves to dance. He chose to stay silent. She began to understand the problem. He hesitated to enter the dark room. Sally managed to solve the puzzle. They planned to visit Japan next summer. I need to write a report by tomorrow. He learned to play
the piano as an adult. She promised to keep a secret. We hope to meet again soon. "She has a plan to renovate the kitchen next summer." - The infinitive "to watch the sunset." - Here, the infinitive "to watch" modifies the noun "spot," indicating its purpose.
"There is no time to waste." - "To waste" modifies "time," specifying what kind of time is being discussed. "I need a place to stay tonight." - "To stay" modifies "reason," detailing the kind of reason. "She offered a solution to fix the
problem." - "To fix" modifies "solution," explaining what the solution accomplishes. "He is looking for a way to escape." - "To lead" modifies "someone," indicating the role or capacity in which the person is needed. "That is the tool to
remove the screws." - "To remove" modifies "book," explaining what the tool is used for. "He gave me a book to read over the weekend." - "To remove" modifies "book," explaining what kind of book it is or what is intended to be done with it. "She moved to the city to find a new job." - The infinitive "to find" modifies the verb "moved," explaining the
purpose of the move. "They woke up early to catch the sunrise." - "to catch" modifies the verb phrase "woke up early," describing why they did so. "He spoke loudly to ensure everyone could hear him." - In this sentence, "to ensure" modifies the verb "spoke," indicating the reason for speaking loudly. "She saved money to go on a vacation." - "to go'
modifies the verb "saved," clarifying the purpose of saving money. "We stopped talking to listen to the announcement." - Here, "to let" modifies the verb "stopped talking," explaining why they stopped talking, the verb "stopped talking," explaining why they stopped talking to listen to the announcement." - Here, "to let" modifies the verb "stopped talking," explaining why they stopped talking, the purpose of saving money. "They hurried to the
theater to see the first show." - "to see" modifies the verb "hurried," detailing the purpose of their hurry. "He paused to collect his thoughts before answering." - In this example, "to excel modifies the verb "studies," indicating the reason
for studying hard. "He left the party early to catch" modifies the verb "left," describing why he left early. To identify infinitives, look for the word "to" followed by the base form of a verb, such as "to eat," "to sing," or "to dance." The rules for infinitives include using them after certain verbs, adjectives, and to express
purpose, and avoiding splitting "to" and the verb with other words. Infinitives can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs, depending on their role in the sentence. Yes, infinitives occur when an adverb is placed between "to" and the base form of
the verb, such as "to boldly go." While traditionally frowned upon, split infinitives are widely accepted in modern English as long as they do not hinder clarity or flow. Yes, certain verbs are followed by infinitives are widely accepted in modern English as long as they do not hinder clarity or flow. Yes, some adjectives? Yes, some adjectives are followed by infinitives are followed by infinitives.
to express purpose or reason, such as "happy to help" or "eager to learn." Add Tone Friendly Formal Casual Instructive Professional Empathetic Humorous Serious Optimistic Neutral 10 Examples of Public speaking 20 Examples 20 Exam
referring to the present infinitive, which is the most common. There are, however, four other forms of the infinitive base is the verb
form you will find in a dictionary. To-infinitive Zero infinitive to sit sit to eat eat to have have to remember The negative infinitive is formed by putting not in front of any form of the infinitive to sit sit to eat eat to have have to remember The negative infinitive is used in many sentence constructions, often expressing the purpose of something or someone's opinion
about something. The to-infinitive is used following a large collection of different verbs as well. See this page about verbs followed by infinitives. The to-infinitive as the subject of the sentence This is a formal usage and is far
more common in written English than spoken The to-infinitive after adjective There is a common pattern, the to-infinitive with an adjective. These phrases are formed:subject + to be + adjective + (for/of someone) + to-infinitive after adjective.
infinitive + (rest of sentence) The to-infinitive to make a comment or judgement To use the to-infinitive when making a comment or judgement about a noun, the pattern is: Subject + to be + noun phrase + to-infinitive with adverbs too and enough to express the reasoning behind our
satisfaction or insatisfaction. The pattern is that too and enough are placed before or after the adjective, adverb, or noun that they modify in the same way they would be without the to-infinitive. We then follow them by the to-infinitive and
everything that follows can be removed, leaving a sentence that still functions grammatically. The to-infinitive with question words The verbs ask, decide, explain, forget, know, show, tell, & understand can be followed by a question words The verb ask, decide, explain, forget, know, show, tell, & understand can be followed by a question words The verbs ask, decide, explain, forget, know, show, tell, & understand can be followed by a question words The verbs ask, decide, explain, forget, know, show, tell, & understand can be followed by a question words.
auxiliaries The zero infinitive after verbs of perception With verbs of
Does the Infinitive Form Mean? The infinitive form is the most basic form of a verb. It doesn't have a tense, and it isn't tied to any one subject in a sentence. In the sentence He is going to go to the shop., "to go" is the infinitive. You can normally spot an infinitive because it has to at the start (though sometimes they don't—more on that later). If we
change who is going to the shop, like this: She is going to go to the shop, like this: She is going to go to the shop, you can see that the infinitive ease, the infinitive stays the same. Past: They wanted to go to the theatre. Present: Do you want to go to the
theatre? Future: I am going to go to the theatre next Saturday. This is because the infinitive is never the main verb in the examples above, the main verb of the tense and the subject. This is a good way to tell the difference.
between normal verbs and infinitives. How Do You Write the Infinitive Form? In the infinitive form, "to" is a part of the verb. To write the infinitive form, you'll normally need this formula: "to" + verb (Again, sometimes you can get rid of the "to," but we'll look at that later.) What Is a Verb? Need a quick refresher on verbs? No problem. A verb is a
doing word. They denote an action or a state of being. Here are some verb examples: Hear See Be Do Walk Wear Call Write It's important to note that some of these words aren't always verbs in every sentence—some can also be used as nouns. Check out our complete guide to verbs for more info. Examples of Infinitive Forms So, how do you turn
those verbs into infinitives? Just add "to." Here are 15 more examples of the infinitive form to help you learn how it works: To be: I want to be the leader. To do: I don't know what to do. To see: He went to see the doctor. To hear: I have some news you might not want to hear. To learn: She is trying to learn Spanish. To take: I am going to take a
vacation. To have: They would like to have dinner with you. To sleep: Did you manage to sleep well? To care: I stayed there to care for her while she was sick. To eat: Have nothing to wear. To want: That is a strange thing to want. To dance: Would you
in case you need to know what the full infinitive and the bare infinitive are, we've got you covered. So far, we have been looking at the full infinitive. The full infinitive and the bare infinitive are, we've got you covered. So far, we have been looking at the full infinitive. All this means is that we take away the "to" (eat, dream, dance).
How Does the Bare Infinitive Work in a Sentence? She could play the piano beautifully. In this sentence, the bare infinitive is "play." It is called the bare infinitive because there is no "to" before it. It would be wrong to write She could to play the piano beautifully. If you're unsure whether to use "to" with an infinitive, check with ProWritingAid. It'll
He should know better than that. I heard them sing at a festival. You must get up for school. Why wait until next year? Can I Use an Infinitive as a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb? What a specific question! Yes, you can use an infinitive as a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb? What a specific question! Yes, you can use an infinitive as a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb? What a specific question! Yes, you can use an infinitive as a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb? What a specific question! Yes, you can use an infinitive as a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb? What a specific question! Yes, you can use an infinitive as a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb? What a specific question! Yes, you can use an infinitive as a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb? What a specific question! Yes, you can use an infinitive as a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb? What a specific question! Yes, you can use an infinitive as a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb? What a specific question! Yes, you can use an infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, or Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, and Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, and Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, and Adverb. In each case, the infinitive as a noun, Adjective, and Adverb. I
denotes a thing, place, person, or idea Adjective: a word that modifies (changes the meaning of) a verb What Are Examples of an Infinitive Used as a Noun? When you use an infinitive use an infinitive as a noun, you use it to denote an idea or thing, like this: To know stands in for the thing that I want in this sentence (knowledge).
This infinitive therefore acts as a noun. Here are some more examples: After a long day, Janelle likes to soak in a hot bath. I love to dance. She refuses to cater to his every whim. I need to learn my words. To visit the Grand Canyon is his life-long dream. To know him to to love him. As in the examples above, the noun infinitive phrase can go at the end
or the beginning of the sentence, though it's more common to see it at the end. How Do I Use the Infinitive as an Adjective? An adjective describe a noun. So when you use an infinitive to describe a noun, you're using it as an adjective describes a noun.
medal" describes the noun—the "attempt." He used computer software to build the game. She wore her mom's necklace to give her good luck. I am happy to be here. It is good of you use the infinitive to modify (or change the
meaning of) a verb, you're using it as an adverb. She ran to catch the bus in time. He sent a letter to make a complaint. They were studying to prepare for the exam. To keep you safe, we're continuing to wear face coverings. Jessica went to New York to study acting. As you can see, the infinitive phrase can go at the beginning or end of the sentence
To keep you safe, we're continuing to wear face coverings. We're continuing to wear face coverings to keep you safe. What Does the Infinitive phrases in the examples above. Here are three of those examples with the infinitive phrases in the examples above. Here are three of those examples with the infinitive phrases in the examples above.
They were studying to prepare for the exam. She wore her mom's necklace to give her good luck. As we've said, an infinitive phrase can go at the beginning or end of the sentence, but the end is more common. A famous exception is the line "To be or not to be, that is the question" from Hamlet. You can use infinitives to make lots of different kinds of
statements. Let's look at a few. To Explain a Description of Something Infinitives are used after an adjective to expand an idea. For example: The puppy is naughty to destroy the sofa that made him naughty. The infinitive to destroy expands
on the adjective, naughty. Examples of infinitives being used to explain adjectives: It is good of you to think of me. I am happy to be here. It is important for students to be patient in the laboratory. To Explain Why You Like/Dislike Something If you use an infinitive with the words "too" or "enough," you can express the reasoning behind satisfaction or
dissatisfaction. There's too much sugar to fit in this bowl. The bowl is no good because it isn't big enough to fit all the sugar. I had too many books to carry. This soup is too hot to eat. She's old enough to decide for herself. There isn't enough snow to
ski down the slope. To Make a Comment or Judgment About Something Use infinitives to make a comment or judgment about a noun in a sentence. For example: Climbing the beach cliff is a dangerous way to behave. Here, the infinitive tells us that the judgement is being made specifically about behaviour. More examples of making a judgement with
an infinitive: Your comment was a rude thing to say. This is the right thing to do. Those were the wrong formulas to use. Jack is the best candidate to hire. To Ask a Question What, who, and when + the infinitive to form a
question. It's easier when you see some examples: She asked me how to use the new computer. Do you understand what to do? Tell me when to press the button. I'm not sure I know who to call. Now you know what the infinitive form is, you can begin to add infinitive phrases to your sentences. See what we did there? home-sitemap-A-Z grammar
terms infinitive form of a verb in the dictionary. The infinitive form of a verb is usually preceded by "to" (e.g., "to run," "to dance," "to think"). An infinitive form of a verb is usually preceded by "to" (e.g., "to run," "to dance," "to think").
used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. Table of Contents Examples of Infinitives as Adverbs Bare Infinitives Infiniti
as nouns: To dance was her passion. (The infinitive is the subject of "likes.") Compare it to this: Dancing was her passion. (This proves that the infinitive is the direct object of "likes.") Compare it to this: He likes hunting. (This proves that the infinitive "to dance" is being used as a noun.)
hunt" is being used as a noun.) An adjective modifies a noun to tell us something about the noun (e.g., its colour, type, or number). You have to bear this in mind when working out how infinitive modifies "ornament." This
means it is functioning as an adjective.) Compare it to this: Give him an ornament that he can polish" is an adjective clause. This proves that the infinitive modifies "volunteer." This means it is
functioning as an adjective.) Compare it to this: I need a volunteer who is prepared to take the minutes. (The clause "who is prepared to take the minutes." This is an infinitive phrase.) An infinitive that acts as an
adjective usually appears immediately after the noun it is modifying. An adverb usually modifies a verb to tell us when, where, how, in what manner, or to what extent an action is performed. You have to bear this in mind when working out how infinitives function as adverbs. Here are some examples of infinitive verbs as adverbs: The officer returned
to help. (The infinitive modifies the verb "returned." This means it is functioning as an adverb.) Here is another example: He will complete the mission to set an example.
(The infinitive modifies the verb "will complete." This means it is functioning as an adverb.) Compare it to this: He will complete the mission so he can set an example is an adverb. Note how "to set" is grouped with "an example."
This is an infinitive phrase.) The infinitive form is not always preceded by "to." Look at these examples: I need to run every day. (After certain verbs, the "to" is dropped. The word "to" is not a preposition. It is often called the "sign of the
infinitive.") I run every day. (This is a finite verb, i.e., a verb functioning as the main verb.) So, most infinitive follows "can," "could," "may," "might," "must," "shall," "should," "will," or "would" (i.e., a modal
verb). For example: More examples (bare infinitives shaded): He should go home. (This is called a "bare infinitives also follow other verbs. The main ones are "feel," "hear," "help," "let," "make," "see," and "watch." This time, there is a direct object involved. For example: More examples (bare
infinitives shaded): Mark helped his friend finish. (The "special" verb is "helped." The direct object is "them.") In these examples, the infinitive phrases are in bold. Remember that an infinitive phrase is the infinitive form of
a verb plus all the bits that go with it (i.e., complements and modifiers). In these two examples, the infinitive verbs are functioning as nouns: Wine is constant proof that God loves us and loves to see us happy. (Founding Father of USA Benjamin Franklin) Some guys like to fight on even playing grounds, and some guys like to cheat. (Boxer Deontay
Wilder) In these examples, the infinitive verbs are functioning as adjectives: Friends give you total freedom to be yourself. (Singer Jim Morrison) If one is wise, it is a profitable thing to seem foolish. (Greek tragedian Aeschylus) In these examples, the infinitive verbs are functioning as adverbs: Sins, like chickens, come home to roost. (Author Charles
W. Chesnutt) To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone. (Singer Reba McEntire) Here's a bit more about infinitive phrases. Look at this example: He likes to knead the dough slowly. Apart from the infinitive phrases. Look at this example: He likes to knead the dough slowly.
being acted up (here, "the dough") and an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly"). In this example, "the dough" is a worb complement (in this case, an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly"). In this example, "the dough" is a modifier (in this case, an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly"). In this example, "the dough" is a modifier (in this case, an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly"). In this example, "the dough" is a modifier (in this case, an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly"). In this example, "the dough" is a modifier (in this case, an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when, or where (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when (here, "slowly") and an adverb telling us how, when (here, "slowly") and (here, "slowly") 
play") is used to name the verb. The verb to play has the participles playing and played. In the present tense, to be has the forms "am," "is," and "are." Also, you will definitely need to know what infinitive verbs are if you decide to learn a foreign language. If you don't use the term "infinitive verb" in lesson 1, you'll use it in lesson 2 and most other
lessons thereafter. A split infinitive occurs when a writer splits the full infinitive with an adverb (e.g., "to really laugh," "to better understand," "to secretly plot"). You shouldn't be surprised if you find yourself using a split infinitive because it is often the most succinct, accurate, and natural-sounding way to write. But, there's bit of an issue with the
split infinitive: some regard it as non-standard English or even a grammar mistake. (Just so we're clear, it's neither. It's perfectly acceptable.) The issue doesn't end there though. Your readers who think a split infinitive is wrong might consider you sloppy for using one. So, what's the answer? Avoid or use? Here's the final advice: Have a quick go at
rewording, but if your new sentence doesn't read as well (and it probably won't), go with the split infinitive. To reduce your word count, you can usually replace "in order to gain experience. In 2008, scientists discovered bacteria that had adapted in order to live in
hairspray. Even though it adds to your word count, "in order to" does have an advantage: it makes it clear that follows is the reason for performing the action. (It's like using "so as to.") Jack built a metal detector to find gold nuggets. (Here, "to find gold nuggets" could be an adjective modifying "detector." Jack's device might be a gold-
nugget-only detector.) Jack built a metal detector in order to find gold nuggets. (With "in order to," it's clear that "to find gold nuggets" is an adverb modifying "built." It tells readers why he built the metal detector, which readers will now take to be a standard metal detector.) There's another advantage. Using "in order to" puts a little more emphasis
on the reason for the action. These two advantages are not normally why people use "in order to." Mostly, it's used because writers think it sounds more highbrow. It's inefficient. That said though, "in order not to seem to be
partisan, the term "terrorist" is virtually outlawed in US-run news agencies. (Journalist Kevin Meyers) (This reads far better than "Not to offend anybody, not to seem to be partisan....") There is no need to actively avoid a split infinitive, which is often the most succinct, accurate, and natural way to convey your thought. If "in order to" adds no clarity
and you're not looking for emphasis on the reason, delete "in order." Was something wrong with this page? Use #gm to find us quicker. Create a QR code for this, or any, page. XYouTubeFacebookmailing listgrammar forum The infinitive form is a fundamental part of English grammar, helping convey meaning with clarity and precision. It is the base
form of a verb, often preceded by "to," and plays versatile roles in sentences. Infinitives can act as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs, making them essential for effective communication. Understanding the uses and types of infinitive forms empowers learners to construct sentences with greater flexibility and correctness. What Is the Infinitive Form of a
Verb? The infinitive form of a verb is its most basic form, often preceded by the word "to." It is a non-finite verb, meaning it does not show tense, person, or number. The infinitive includes the word "to" followed by the base form of the verb. Examples: Fatima plans to travel next year. The infinitive includes the word "to" followed by the base form of the verb. Examples: Fatima plans to travel next year. The infinitive includes the word "to" followed by the base form of the verb.
Ahmed loves to cook delicious meals. The infinitive "to cook" acts as the object of "loves." The bare infinitive is the base form of the verb without "to." It is used after modal verbs, certain auxiliary verbs, and specific expressions like "let" or "make." Examples: The bare infinitive "swim" follows the modal verb "can." Let Aisha speak her mind. The bare
infinitive "speak" follows the verb "let." Here is a list of infinitive examples for clarity: Infin
clearly, Follows the verb "heard" RunLet the children run freely, Follows the verb "let" The table below highlights the differences between bare infinitive and to-infinitive 
nouns Examples He can drive. He wants to drive. Explanation "Drive" follows the modal "can." "To drive gollows the word improves your vocabulary. The infinitive "to read" acts as the subject of the sentence. They decided to leave early
The infinitive "to leave" acts as the object of "decided." Infinitives can describe or modify nouns, performing the role of adjectives. Examples: He
studies hard to succeed. The infinitive "to succeed" explains the purpose of "studies." The infinitive "to help" explains the reason for "happy." To learn is important. He wants to go to the park. She decided to stay home. They are planning to visit Paris. He woke up early to study. I need to finish this report. She came to help me. We need to talk. I hope
to see you soon. He stopped to take a break. What is the infinitive form of a verb with Example? The infinitive form of a verb is its base form, often preceded by "to." It does not show tense or agreement. "to eat" in "I want to eat" is an infinitive form of a verb with Example? The infinitive form of a verb with Example for
infinitive) or used without "to" (bare infinitive). What is the difference between bare and to-infinitives? Bare infinitives do not include "to" and are used in broader contexts. Example: He helped me cook (bare). He wants to cook (to-infinitive). What are the 6 infinitive forms? The six
forms of the infinitive are: Bare Infinitive, To-Infinitive, To-Infinitive, Continuous Infinitive, Perfect Continuous Infinitive, To study, To play, To help, To work, To write, To dance, To listen. The infinitive form is a versatile tool in English
grammar, helping to convey actions, intentions, or descriptions effectively. By understanding its types, functions, and examples, you can use infinitives confidently in your writing and speaking. Practice regularly to master their usage and see how they transform your language skills. You May Also Like Bare Infinitive Auxiliary Verbs Transitive Verbs
and Intransitive Verbs example of infinitive verb pijama61 / DigitalVision Vectors / Getty Used under Getty Images license An infinitive verbs. Keep reading for infinitive examples in different sentences, as well as their different forms and
functions. You can form an infinitive verb by adding "to" in front of any base verb. Infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs include: to be (I want to be an astronaut.) to dream (James dares to dream about getting the job.) to have (We're going to have a stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs; they stay in their infinitive verbs are not conjugated like other verbs.
baby.)to hold (Do you want to hold the puppy?)to look (I'm afraid to look at the messy room.)to read (The first graders are learning to read this year.)to write (I'm planning to write a letter to the company.)to sleep (It's time to sleep.)to throw (If Gina doesn't get her way, she's going to throw a tantrum.)to want (It's natural to want your team to win.)
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Even though infinitives include verbs, they are not verbs. Infinitives can function as different parts of a sentence, but not verbs. Infinitives can function as nouns when they follow particular verbs. In these cases, the

infinitive verb is working as a direct object. When there are additional words after the infinitive verbs, they become infinitive are bolded. We decided to go out. I want to swim in the pool. Mom loves to give gifts. Do you swear to tell the truth? I'd prefer to see an action movie. He reminded her to go downtown. To dance is my little girl's dream. I would like to thank you for coming out tonight. He does not like to drink soda from a can. I forgot to take my vitamins today. These infinitive verbs and phrases answer the "What?" questions posed by the verbs in the sentences. For example, in the first sentence, "We decided to go out," the infinitive phrase "to go out," the infinitive phrase "to go out," the infinitive verbs act as adjectives, they describe the noun that they follow. Do you have any laundry to wash? My favorite meal to make is macaroni and cheese. The best method to use is the hands-on method. The Superbowl is the game to watch. Peter is a difficult guy to understand. He certainly gave me something to think about. That watch is a valuable heirloom to pass down. This is the most important thing to know. You'll always have a sister to confide in. History is my least favorite subject to study. Unlike infinitives that act as nouns in the sentence, adjectivial infinitives answer the question "What kind?" For example, in the sentence "Do you have any laundry to wash?" the infinitives follow an adjective, they're functioning as adverbs. They can also modify the verb in the sentence to answer the question "Why?" For example: Billie is finally ready to go. I climbed the mountain to see the world. I bought a patch to stop smoking. My dad will be so happy to meet you! You are so easy to talk to. Kelly went to the store to buy apples. Let's buy snow gear to go skiing. I went to college to become an engineer. Notice that any of these infinitives can appear in any sentence. You've seen several examples of infinitive verbs that include the word "to" — but not every infinitive does. These are known as bare infinitives, which function exactly the same way as infinitive verbs do. They follow modal auxiliary verbs (can, should, will, could, may, might, and so on) in a sentence. For example: I can wait for the results. (NOT "I can to wait for the results") Should we call our parents? (NOT "Should we to call our parents?") Henry might lend us his truck. (NOT "Henry might to lend us his truck.") Our family will be okay. (NOT "Gran wait) in the sentences of perception (hear, see, feel, sense) and verbs of permission (bid, let, need, know, help, had better, sooner than, would rather go to school. I saw her swim ten laps. Lola does like you. Can you help me carry this upstairs? It may seem difficult to memorize these rules and verbs. However, you are the best judge of when to use bare infinitives. If a sentence sounds awkward with the word "to," go ahead and try the bare infinitive verbs. Soon you'll be able to spot infinitives in everything you read! "I love to eat. I love to read about food. I love to look into shop windows at food." - The Grand Surprise by Leo Lerman"It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt." - Mark Twain"Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save." - Will Rogers"Until the advent of television emptied the movie theaters, it was from a weekly visit to the cinema by Susan Sontag"A celebrity is a person who works hard all his life to become well known, then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognized." - Fred Allen"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." - President Theodore Roosevelt"An enormous relief had come upon us now that the job was done. One felt an impulse to sing, to break into a run, to snigger." - A Hanging by George Orwell"To walk beside my father down Sixth Street was to hear the asphalt sing." - The Centaur by John Updike Not all verbs show action. Others function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. What is an infinitive? An infinitive is a type of non-finite verb usually formed using "to" and the base verb. To run, to teach, and to be are all examples of infinitives. Learn about the definition and uses of infinitive verbs. I'll show you the four main types of infinitives and their diverse functions in English sentences. An infinitive in English grammar is usually made of to and the base form of a verb, as in to run or to eat. This combination has a different function in the sentence, such as an adjective, adverb, or noun. Unlike a finite verb, an infinitive does not have a subject nor show tense. For example: The sentence uses the infinitive form of see, which is to see. It does not function as an actionable verb because I feel they make the story flow better. But it's really a stylistic choice. Stick with me while I go over all types of infinitives. We usually think that the only infinitive form of a verb is to plus the base verb. But there are four main types you should know. A split infinitive includes an adverb or adverbial phrase placed between to and the base form of the werb. One of the most celebrated split infinitives can be found in every episode of the famous show Star Trek:To boldly go where no one has gone before. Notice how the order is to + single adverb + base verb. They do not say boldly because both are inaccurate. But some grammar experts are divided on this. Some prescriptivists agree that they should be avoided, while others think they are acceptable. If you want to keep your writing safe, it's best to avoid them altogether. For instance, instead of saying this: The handbook will help you to conveniently fix the appliance conveniently fix the appliance. You can say: The handbook will help you to fix the appliance conveniently fix the appliance conveniently fix the appliance. You can say: The handbook will help you to fix the appliance conveniently fix the appliance conveniently fix the appliance. You can say: The handbook will help you to fix the appliance conveniently fix the appliance. You can say: The handbook will help you to fix the appliance conveniently fix the appliance. You can say: The handbook will help you to fix the appliance conveniently fix the appliance conveniently fix the appliance. You can say: The handbook will help you to fix the appliance conveniently fix the appliance conven sentence sounds awkward. But when we use the split infinitive, it sounds smoother because it emphasizes the act of choosing. She wants to meticulously choose her outfit. Full infinitive are the most common infinitives are the most common infinitives are the most common infinitives are the most common infinitive. Hamlet:Don't mistake an infinitive with a preposition phrase that starts with the common preposition to. Prepositional phrases do not have the base verb form after to but a noun, pronoun, or any modifier. Here's an example of a full infinitive in a sentence. To buy a house in the suburbs is my dream. In this sentence, to buy is the full infinitive that functions as a subject of the sentence. You might also find full infinitives after adjectives. For example: They may also be used with adverbs too and enough. For example: They may also be used with adverbs too and enough. For example: They may also be used with adverbs too and enough. structure, which includes the special verb, direct object, then the infinitive. For example is let, and the direct object is me. Use is the bare infinitive. The main verb in this example is let, and the direct object is me. Use is the bare infinitive. The main verb in this example is let, and the direct object is me. Use is the bare infinitive. The main verb in this example is let, and the direct object is me. Use is the bare infinitive. The main verb in this example is let, and the direct object is me. Use is the bare infinitive. negative infinitive is formed using the word not with a to-infinitive or zero infinitive or zero infinitive or zero infinitive or zero infinitive because it uses not with to and the base verb go. Here are more examples of negative infinitives in sentences. Try not to use pretentious words. It's a bad idea not to set up cameras outside your house. I do not drink milk. A less common structure of negative infinitive, although many grammarians do not recommend it. For example: My goal is to not stutter during my speech. Infinitives of different forms also have different functions. Let's discuss each. An infinitive can function as a noun or noun phrase. It names persons, places, things, or events. These words can function as subjects, subject complements, and direct objects. But infinitive cannot function as the object of prepositions like gerunds. As a subject, an infinitive becomes the doer of the action. For example: To watch the band perform live is my biggest dream. In this sentence, to watch is the subject and appear before a linking verb. For example: All I want is to eat tres leches represents the subject All I want, and it comes before the linking verb is.An infinitive can also be the object of the sentence, receiving the action verb. For example: I plan to throw her a party. The direct object answers the question, "Plan what?" Here are some common verbs that are followed by infinitives as objects. Afford Agree Arrange Ask Care Demand Expect Fail Forget Hope Offer Plan Prepare Stop Volunteer Wait Want Wish Afford to go and agree to come are examples of phrasal verbs or the use of infinitives in phrases. These verbs usually have no actor between them and the infinitive direct-object phrase. For example: We agreed to attend the event. Agreed to attend the event is a full infinitive phrase with no possible indirect object between them. This type of verb can function as an adjective that modifiers. I need my mom to lecture me. In this sentence, the infinitive to lecture modifies the noun mom. I need a chair to sit on while I'm studying. I want something to drink with my steak and fries. That's a beautiful dress to wear to the party tonight. As an adverb, an infinitive can also modify an adjective, verb, or a fellow adverb. This verbal offers additional information about the verb, often answering the guestion why. Consider this example. I was happy to meet your friend last night. In this sentence, the infinitive to meet gives extra information about the adjective happy. This sentence shows an infinitive before the main clause. To be a successful doctor, you must choose your specialization wisely. Here are some examples of sentences with infinitives as adverbial modifiers. I got new glasses to see clearly. I promise to bring you new shoes on your birthday. She was very excited to hear the news about her father. The infinitive can be used after modal verbs and semi-modal verb showing possibility, intent, necessity, or ability. Below is an example of a sentence with a modal verb before an infinitive. I will buy a new book tomorrow. In this sentence, the modal verb will comes before the infinitive. I used to watch her shows all the time. Here are more sentence examples. We should follow the rules and regulations at work. There might be better policies. Perception verbs, sense verbs, or stative verbs use bare infinitives of an active verb when the object takes an action. These perception verbs include hear, see, feel, taste, and more. The order is the main verb is heard, followed by the object Dina and the bare infinitive. arrive. Here are more examples. I felt his hand brush mine. I watched you rock that dress last night. Use the full infinitive after relative pronouns who, what to get Jermaine for his birthday. In this sentence, the relative pronoun is what and is followed by the full infinitive to get. But why, as a relative pronoun, uses the bare infinitive, especially when making suggestions in interrogative form. For example: Why buy a new bottle when you can reuse the old one? These verbs always use bare infinitives. Remember that make and let use a direct object. For example: Please let me live in peace. In this sentence, let is the main verb. It's followed by a direct object me and the bare infinitive live. But live is not the main action in the sentence examples. I made my mother buy me new boots. She let me borrow her journal. We use infinitives to explain why a subject is doing something. The non-finite verb often replaces the phrase in order to to make the sentence more concise. For example: My brother left to meet, which is the shortened version of in order to meet, which is the shortened version of interest. to school to pursue your dreams? Continuous infinitive express continuous infinitive in the sentence is to be eating my pancakes when Josh went inside the restaurant. The continuous infinitive in the sentence is to be eating. Here are more examples of sentences with continuous infinitives. The ship is said to be sailing around the world for months. It's nice to be working with you on this thesis paper. You should be studying hard for a good future. The perfect infinitive uses the structure to have plus the past participle verb form. To have forgotten and to have written are examples of perfect infinitives. Consider the sentence below. I am happy to have seen Laura and Mike's new baby. The perfect infinitives. I wish to have tried my best during the competition. He pretended to have seen the movie. Your gift should have arrived last week. A perfect continuous infinitive uses the perfect and continuous verb form to express an action that was in progress but is now complete. Use to have been turning it off the whole time. The group appeared to have been cheating on the test. A passive infinitive is the passive form of an infinitive. We use it to highlight the receiver or the action, which is entence emphasizes the receiver of the action, which is entence emphasizes the receiver of the action, which is entence emphasizes the receiver of the action, which is entence emphasizes the receiver of the action, which is entence emphasizes the receiver of the action, which is entence emphasizes the receiver of the action, which is entence emphasizes the receiver of the action instead I.Here are more examples of passive infinitives in sentences. Kids like to be complimented even if they don't ask for it. Education should be prioritized by the government. I wish to be promoted soon. Infinitive form of a verb and other modifiers. For example: I want to bake the cookie dough. The infinitive verb in the sentence is to bake. The complement is its direct object, the cookie dough. Infinitives are non-finite verbs because they do not have subjects and don't show tense. They function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. Other verb forms with different functions include the gerund and participle. Like infinitives, they either function as nouns or modifiers. Infinitive or zero infinitive after modal verbs like may, can, might, could, should, and will. For example: Incorrect: I can to do this every day. Correct: I can do this every day. You can also use the bare infinitive after perception verbs. For example: Incorrect: I saw you to leave the house. Correct: I saw you to leave the house. Correct: Please let me to go to summer camp this year. Correct: Please let me go to summer camp this year. camp this year. They may also lose the word to on the second one when the sentence has a series of infinitives. For example: Incorrect: I want to finish my homework, visit my friends, watch the concert, and have dinner with my family.Infinitives may have attributes of verbs, but they have different uses in sentences. These types of verbs are formed using the base verb or to and the base verb. Within a sentence, infinitives can be nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. They may indicate the purpose of an action, be a doer of the action, or act as the receiver of the verb. Other non-finite verbs in the English language are gerunds and participles. Learn more about these verbals on our site so you can be a better English writer.

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