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[illegible]



infinitive verb is working as a direct object or indirect object. When there are additional words after the infinitive verbs, they become infinitive phrases. For example, the sentences "I want to swim in the pool." and "Mom loves to give gifts." show 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" answers the question "What did we decide?" Infinitives can also modify nouns in a sentence. When 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, adjectival infinitives answer the question "What kind?" For example, in the sentence "Do you have any laundry to wash?" the infinitive "to wash" clarifies why kind of laundry you're looking for. When 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 view. Read the manual to understand more about repairing the stereo. Cameron travels 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. It all depends on how they're functioning and what they're modifying. No matter what, infinitives are a great way to add more detail to a 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, shall, would, 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 "Our family will to be okay.") These infinitives function as objects to the modal verbs (I can wait? I can wait) in the sentences. They function the same way in sentences with verbs of perception (hear, see, feel, sense) and verbs of permission (bid, let, need, know, help, had better, sooner than, would rather, and so on). For example: Oliver made me share my lunch with him. You'd better tell me the truth. Hunter 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. Now that you've seen several examples of infinitives in sentences, check out these famous examples of 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 that you learned (or tried to learn) how to walk, to smoke, to kiss, to fight, to grieve." - The Decay of 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 the act of seeing is not really done. In my own writing, I try and use bare infinitives as much as possible 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 verb. 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 to go or to go 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. You can say: The handbook will help you to fix the appliance conveniently. But in some instances, split infinitives sound better in sentences. For example: She wants to choose meticulously her outfit. This 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 infinitives are the most common infinitives in writing, which take the base verb and the word to in front of them. One famous full infinitive comes from William Shakespeare's 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: This sweatshirt is too small to keep me warm. Bare infinitives are more challenging to identify because they don't have the word to. This special verb form can be spotted based on its structure, which includes the special verb, direct object, then the infinitive. For example: She let me use the espresso machine. The special verb in this example is let, and the direct object is me. Use is the bare infinitive. Here is another example of a sentence with a bare infinitive. The main verb in the sentence is do, making drink a bare infinitive. The negative infinitive is formed using the word not with a to-infinitive or zero infinitive. That means it can have two basic structures. Not + base verb Not + to + base verb Consider the sentence example below. I asked my mother not to go. This statement uses a negative to-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 is to + not + 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 infinitives 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. Full infinitives can also be subject complements. They rename the subject and appear before a linking verb. For example: All I want is to eat tres leches. 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 verb with the word what. In this sentence, to throw her a party 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 following 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 modifies the meanings of nouns. Here are some examples of infinitives that act as adjectival 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 question 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 verbs. A modal verb is an auxiliary 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 buy. This sentence uses a combination of a semi-modal verb or marginal modal before an 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 + object + bare infinitive. For example: I heard Dina arrive before Joey drove. Here, 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, whom, where, and how. Do not use these pronouns with split and bare infinitives. For example: I don't know 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. Below are more 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 with my dad. In this sentence, the main verb is left. It is followed by the full infinitive to meet, which is the shortened version of in order to meet. Here are more sentence examples. I'm writing to let you know that the package has arrived. Do you go to school to pursue your dreams? Continuous infinitives express continuing action after an auxiliary or verb. This infinitive uses to be and the present participle form of a verb. For example: I happened 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 infinitive in the sentence is to have seen. Here are more examples of sentences with 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 with the present participle of the verb when forming the perfect continuous infinitive. For example: I must 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 instead of the doer. It is formed using to be and the past participle form of the verb. For example: I wish to be nominated as the president of the club. The passive infinitive is to be nominated. This sentence emphasizes the receiver of the action, which is 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 phrases are verb phrases containing the 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. The complete infinitive phrase is to bake 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. Infinitives usually start with to. But others only include the base form of the verb, and they are called bare infinitives. Use the bare 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 leave the house. Infinitives don't use to when paired with the main verbs let, make, and do. For example: Incorrect: Please let me to go to summer camp this year. Correct: Please let me go to summer 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, to visit my friends, to watch the concert, and to have dinner with my family. Correct: 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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