



# INFINITIVES

## WHAT IS AN INFINITIVE?

An infinitive is a verb which functions as a noun, adjective, or adverb. It takes the form of “to + verb” in its simplest form. An infinitive expresses an action or state of being.

### Examples

To walk

To go

## WHAT IS AN INFINITIVE PHRASE?

Infinitive phrases begin with the infinitive and include objects or modifiers.

### Examples

To walk to the store

To go to the beach

## FUNCTIONS OF INFINITIVES

### Noun Examples

*To walk to the store was too much for my grandmother.*

**\*“To walk to the store” is a noun phrase that functions as the subject of the sentence.**

*The baby needed to eat.*

**\*“To eat” is a noun that functions as the direct object of the sentence.**

*Donald’s idea was to order pizza while studying.*

**\*“To order pizza” is a noun that functions as the subject complement of the sentence.**

### Adjective Examples

*Mary did not have the ability to walk.*

**\*“To walk” functions as an adjective that modifies the noun “ability.”**



## Adverb Examples

*Professor Kingsley teaches ESL to help international students learn English.*

**\*"To help international students learn English" functions as an adverb, answering the question, "why"?**



[carey.jhu.edu](http://carey.jhu.edu)

100 International Drive | Baltimore, MD 21202