

# 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”?