



Identifying Infinitive Verbs

An infinitive is the base form of a verb used with *to*.

Example 1: *to see* - infinitive form

Example 2: I want *to see* a movie this weekend.

As an infinitive, the verb is never conjugated or changed. That means it never has a verb ending such as -s, -ed, -ing, etc.

Example 3: We went from hearing the lion *to seeing* it.

While *to seeing* may look like an infinitive at first glance, it is not; *seeing* is the present participle form of *see*, not the base form.

An infinitive may function in a sentence many ways: as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. It often follows another verb.

Example 4: *To love* and be loved was her dearest wish. -- noun

Example 5: She still had cookies *to bake* before the party. -- adjective

Example 6: Charles used the last of his energy *to push* the door open. -- adverb

Example 7: They agreed *to start* the meeting at 3 o'clock. - direct object of the verb *agreed*.

Note: Do not confuse an infinitive with a prepositional phrase that begins with *to*.

Example 8: They wanted to go to the party. -- *to go* is an infinitive acting as a direct object; *to the party* is a prepositional phrase.

Circle the infinitives in each of the following sentences.

1. We tried to call you, but you didn't answer.
2. Keith had fifty miles to go before he got to beach.
3. Beth promised to finish the project on time.
4. They never hesitated to ask their teacher for help.
5. To cross the river to save time seemed dangerous.
6. He begged his mother to take him to the mall.
7. The class volunteered to pick up the trash at the park.
8. To lie to your parents is a foolish thing to do.

**Verb
Tenses:**

Identifying Infinitive Verbs

An infinitive is the base form of a verb used with *to*.

Example 1: *to see* - infinitive form

Example 2: I want *to see* a movie this weekend.

As an infinitive, the verb is never conjugated or changed. That means it never has a verb ending such as -s, -ed, -ing, etc.

Example 3: We went from hearing the lion *to seeing* it.

While *to seeing* may look like an infinitive at first glance, it is not; *seeing* is the present participle form of *see*, not the base form.

An infinitive may function in a sentence many ways: as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. It often follows another verb.

Example 4: *To love* and be loved was her dearest wish. -- noun

Example 5: She still had cookies *to bake* before the party. -- adjective

Example 6: Charles used the last of his energy *to push* the door open. -- adverb

Example 7: They agreed *to start* the meeting at 3 o'clock. - direct object of the verb *agreed*.

Note: Do not confuse an infinitive with a prepositional phrase that begins with *to*.

Example 8: They wanted to go to the party. -- *to go* is an infinitive acting as a direct object; *to the party* is a prepositional phrase.

Circle the infinitives in each of the following sentences.

1. We tried to call you, but you didn't answer.
2. Keith had fifty miles to go before he got to beach.
3. Beth promised to finish the project on time.
4. They never hesitated to ask their teacher for help.
5. To cross the river to save time seemed dangerous.
6. He begged his mother to take him to the mall.
7. The class volunteered to pick up the trash at the park.
8. To lie to your parents is a foolish thing to do.