

VERBALS


Writing with Infinitives

An infinitive is the word *to* combined with the simple, or stem, form of a verb, such as *to sing* or *to read*. An infinitive is rarely used as a verb; instead it is used in a sentence as a noun, adjective, or adverb. When it is used as a noun it functions as a subject, subject complement or direct object.


Remember that an infinitive includes a verb, and should not be confused with a prepositional phrase starting with the preposition *to*, such as *to the street*.

Below is a list of infinitives and functions. Write a sentence using the infinitive as indicated.


1. *to choose* as a subject

 _____


2. *to eat* as a direct object

 _____


3. *to dance* as a subject complement

 _____


4. *to buy* as a direct object

 _____


5. *to fly* as a subject

 _____


6. *to become* as a subject complement

 _____

7. *to write* as a direct object

 _____

8. *to wash* as a subject complement

 _____

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Answers: Student's answers will vary. Example of correct answers:

1. *to choose* as a subject

To choose a team was the job of the captain.

2. *to eat* as a direct object

She likes to eat fruit.

3. *to dance* as a subject complement

Her dream is to dance in a play.

4. *to buy* as a direct object

Shawn wants to buy a notebook.

5. *to fly* as a subject

To fly a kite is a fun summer activity.

6. *to become* as a subject complement

Mara's goal is to become a teacher.

7. *to write* as a direct object

He plans to write a novel someday.

8. *to wash* as a subject complement

The boy's responsibility is to wash the dog each week.