

Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases A

5g. An **infinitive** is a verb form that can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. Most infinitives begin with *to*.

5h. An **infinitive phrase** consists of an infinitive together with its modifiers and complements. The entire phrase may be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

NOUN **To swim before school** is refreshing.

ADJECTIVE The request **to make to Mom** is for a new coat.

ADVERB Janet was too shy **to answer**.

EXERCISE Underline the infinitives and infinitive phrases in the following sentences.

Example 1. Elston went to the library to write his paper.

1. Pepita decided to join the track team.
2. Lamont wants to learn Spanish before fall.
3. Courtney is planning to sell more tickets to our school play.
4. Robert Fulton, who built the first successful steamboat, tried to invent a practical submarine.
5. To learn about agriculture was George Washington Carver's goal.
6. Krista was happy to finish the art project.
7. Elena offered to wash the car.
8. Justin was reluctant to try raw fish.
9. To fly was Wilbur Wright's dream.
10. Some astronauts have had the opportunity to journey into space.
11. The time to begin a paper is long before the paper is due.
12. The option to choose is the one that causes the least trouble.
13. To do research in the library can be very productive.
14. That car was the first one to be sold this year.
15. The effort to rescue the kitten ended in success.
16. Elian was laughing too hard to speak.
17. Press the button to ring the doorbell.
18. To see the ocean for the first time is a thrilling experience.
19. We are ready to start the race.
20. He was the first person to run a four-minute mile.

Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases B

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5h. An **infinitive phrase** consists of an infinitive together with its modifiers and complements. The entire phrase may be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

EXERCISE A Underline the infinitives and infinitive phrases in the following sentences.

Example 1. Theo wanted to build a treehouse.

1. Roberta sliced the bread to serve it to her dinner guests.
2. My mother's favorite dish to cook is lasagna.
3. To remove stains from clothes, I recommend washing them in cold, soapy water.
4. Justin likes to conduct research on the Internet on the weekends.
5. To travel to Argentina was Elena's wish for the new year.
6. We called Peter and Laura to ask them about our homework assignment.
7. The number to call for that information has been changed.
8. Rafael and Alex were happy to meet their new neighbors.
9. David told his little sister a vivid story to entertain her after dinner.
10. We got to peek at the sleeping baby in the crib.

EXERCISE B Write sentences using each of the following infinitives and infinitive phrases.

Example 1. to learn more about South American history *I went to the library to learn more about South American history.*

11. to try new things _____

12. to create _____

13. to plan a trip _____

14. to enjoy _____

15. to work hard _____
