

Infinitive Phrases Additional Practice

Identifying Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases

What is an Infinitive?

An infinitive is the base form of a verb, usually preceded by the word "to." For example, "to run," "to eat," and "to play" are all infinitives. Infinitives can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs in a sentence.

What is an Infinitive Phrase?

An infinitive phrase consists of the infinitive itself along with any modifiers, objects, or complements. For example, in the phrase "to eat quickly," "to eat" is the infinitive, and "quickly" is a modifier.

Steps to Identify Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases:

1. Look for "to" + Verb:

- Start by scanning the sentence for the word "to" followed by a verb. This combination typically indicates an infinitive.
- Example: In the sentence "She loves to sing," "to sing" is the infinitive.

2. Identify the Entire Phrase:

- If you see "to" followed by a verb, check if there are any modifiers or objects that complete the idea. This entire group of words is an infinitive phrase.
- Example: In "He wants to play soccer," "to play soccer" is the infinitive phrase.

3. Classify the Function:

- Determine how the infinitive or infinitive phrase functions in the sentence. It can serve as:
 - **Noun:** Functions as a subject, object, or predicate nominative.
 - Example: "To swim is fun." (Subject)
 - **Adjective:** Modifies a noun.
 - Example: "She has a paper to write." (Modifies "paper")
 - **Adverb:** Modifies a verb, adjective, or adverb.
 - Example: "He studied hard to pass the exam." (Modifies "studied")

4. Look for Cases Where "to" is Omitted:

- Sometimes, the "to" is omitted, particularly in informal contexts. For example, in "I heard her sing," the infinitive "to sing" is implied without "to."
- Be aware of these contexts and identify the infinitive as you would normally.

Practice Exercises

Highlight the infinitive or infinitive phrase. Write how it is functioning (adjective, adverb, or noun). If it is operating as an adjective or adverb, circle or underline the word that it is modifying. If it is operating as a noun, write to the side if it is operating as the subject, the object of the preposition, a direct object, or a predicate nominative.

1. The best way to learn is to practice regularly.
2. I have a report to finish before the deadline.
3. He was excited to see his friends again.
4. To win the game, the team must work together.
5. She wanted her brother to help her with the project.
6. I need a moment to think about my answer.
7. They decided to leave early to avoid traffic.
8. The teacher encouraged us to study harder.
9. He has the ability to solve complex problems.
10. She wants to become a doctor.
11. She plans to travel to Europe next summer.
12. To bake a cake, you need to gather all the ingredients.
13. The teacher asked the students to complete the assignment and to submit it on time.
14. I want to learn how to play the guitar.
15. To understand the lesson better, he decided to ask questions.
16. They hope to finish the project early to celebrate their success.
17. The best way to improve your writing is to practice regularly.
18. She is eager to start her new job and to meet her coworkers.
19. He wants to read the book before the movie comes out.
20. To find the solution, you must be willing to think outside the box.