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Verbals

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A verbal is a word that is typically a verb but is being used as a different part of speech in a sentence

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Infinitives

Verbs that act like nouns, adjectives, or adverbs

Infinitives must begin with the word **to**

The delivery man **was waiting to drop** off the package.

Was waiting is the verb phrase

To drop is WHAT the delivery man was waiting to do

To drop is the infinitive and it's acting as a **noun**

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Can you find the infinitives below?

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1. Sam entered the contest to win a free car.

2. To make the lacrosse team, you must run two miles under twenty minutes.

3. Justin bought Hailey a ring to show his love.

4. To pay \$2,000 for a cell phone is ridiculous.

5. The best hair stylist to call is Lindsay Harrison.

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Infinitive Phrase

A phrase that contains an infinitive and includes all modifiers or objects associated with it

To see the Grand Canyon in person is incredible.

My dog needs to take a walk.

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Can you find the infinitive phrases?

1. Thomas wants to take swimming lessons.
2. Nicki has plans to plant a garden.
3. He helped to build the shed.
4. To go on vacation this year would be all I could ask for.
5. She learned to speak in Mandarin.

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What an infinitive is NOT

The word “to” must always be followed by a verb, otherwise it’s a preposition, **not** an infinitive.

I walk **to the store** every day. = PREPOSITION

My family sailed **to Italy** on a cruise. = PREPOSITION

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Nouns: Person, Place, or Thing

Nouns could be the subject, direct object, object of the preposition, or predicate nominative.

- **Sally** went to the movies. (Subject)
- They give **cookies** to people who donate blood. (Direct object)
- I did my homework at **the library**. (Object of the preposition)
- My mom is **a nurse**. (Predicate nominative)

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Infinitives As Nouns

To pay for your own ticket is standard.
(*Is* is the verb. **To pay** is the subject.)

Bella learned **to read** in school.
(*Learned* is the verb. **To read** is the direct object.)

Jacob's worst fear was **to drive**.
(*Was* is the verb. **To drive** is the predicate nominative.)

We had no choice but **to leave**.
(*Had* is the verb. **To leave** is the object of the preposition.)

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Infinitives As Adjectives

Adjectives: words that describe or modify nouns

An infinitive that's an adjective will always directly follow the noun that it modifies

Monday is the best time **to start**.
(**To start** modifies time.)

My mom made me an omelet **to eat**.
(**To eat** modifies omelet.)

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Infinitives As Adverbs

Adverb: describes or modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverbs

Adverbs answer the question WHY the action is occurring

I walked home the long way **to avoid** him.
(Why do I walk the long way home? To avoid him.)

Mr. Carter stayed after school **to teach** me Algebra.
(Why did Mr. Carter stay after school? To teach me.)

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Infinitives As Adverbs

To check if the infinitive is an adverb, add the phrase “in order” in front of the infinitive to see if it makes sense

I walked home the long way **in order to avoid** him.

Mr. Carter stayed after school **in order to teach** me Algebra.

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

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The teacher gave Charlie detention to teach him a lesson.

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

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The teacher gave Charlie detention to teach him a lesson.

Adverb

**To teach modifies why the teacher gave
Charlie detention.**

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

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To cheat on the test won't help you learn anything.

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

PREVIEW

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To cheat on the test won't help you learn anything.

Noun

To cheat is the subject of the sentence.

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

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The easiest kind of flowers to plant are marigolds.

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

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The easiest kind of flowers to plant are marigolds.

Adjective

To plant is modifying flowers.

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

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Richard's only concern was to succeed at his job.

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

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Richard's only concern was to succeed at his job.

Noun

**To succeed at his job is acting as a
predicate nominative.**

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

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Josie's favorite book series to read is *Harry Potter*.

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

Josie's favorite book series to read is *Harry Potter*.

Adjective

To read modifies the noun book series.

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

Griffin lifted weights at the gym to gain muscle.

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**What is the infinitive acting as?
Noun, Adjective or Adverb?**

Griffin lifted weights at the gym to gain muscle.

Adverb

To gain muscle is why Griffin lifted weights.

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Name:

Date:

Infinitives

Part 1: Circle the infinitive in each sentence if there is one. If there is no infinitive in the sentence, write none on the line.

1. Marsha tries to find money buried in the sand. _____
2. I walked to the closest park with my friend Sally. _____
3. I want to eat pizza for dinner. _____
4. Grizzly bears are impressive animals to see in the wild. _____
5. The captain sailed the ship to the closest port. _____
6. The detectives studied the crime scene to help solve the mystery. _____
7. To sleep, bats hang upside down. _____
8. The best way to win a race is to pace yourself. _____
9. My family is flying to San Francisco next weekend. _____
10. I need to see that new movie! _____
11. To stay awake, I drink three cups of coffee. _____
12. Frankie hands Gina a tissue to wipe her tears. _____

Part 2: Underline the infinitive phrase.

1. I rush home from school to nap before practice.
2. The toddler refuses to look at the huge mess he made.
3. To train for a marathon, you must build endurance.
4. Wherever Mikayla goes, she always brings a snack to eat.
5. My least favorite music to listen to is country music.
6. To find five dollars on the ground is really lucky.
7. Janice looks over the manual to learn how to put together the lounge chair.
8. Peter reads the story for a second time to understand the plot.
9. Larry wants to travel to Germany with his best friends.
10. I can't wait to dance at the party on Friday.

Part 3: What is the infinitive acting as? Noun (N), Adverb (ADV), or Adjective (ADJ)? Write your answer on the line. The infinitive phrase is underlined for you.

- _____ 1. Mia tried to solve the problem by herself.
- _____ 2. Your idea to spend the day together sounds perfect.
- _____ 3. The mechanic opened the hood of the car to check the engine.
- _____ 4. The lead dancer wants to be applauded.
- _____ 5. Lorraine drove to New York to see a Broadway play.
- _____ 6. To stop your car for pedestrians is the law.
- _____ 7. Mrs. Halpert is the teacher to see about grammar questions.
- _____ 8. To drive a car in New Jersey, you must be seventeen years old.
- _____ 9. Sometimes the best way to resolve a fight is to give someone their space.
- _____ 10. The people had good reason to trust the mayor.
- _____ 11. My dad bought a snowblower to prepare for the incoming storm.
- _____ 12. The Green Bay Packers are the team to beat.
- _____ 13. My grandparents want to enjoy life.
- _____ 14. Highway 65 is the best route to take.
- _____ 15. Shawn decorated the house to surprise his mom on Mother's Day.
- _____ 16. To obey your parents is a form of respect.
- _____ 17. Our plan to go swimming this weekend was ruined by the rain.
- _____ 18. You must score at least four points to win a tennis match.
- _____ 19. We agreed not to exchange gifts until the 25th.
- _____ 20. The baby's favorite stuffed animal to cuddle with was a purple teddy bear.

Name:

Date:

Infinitives Answer Key

Part 1: Circle the infinitive in each sentence if there is one. If there is no infinitive in the sentence, write none on the line.

1. Marsha tries to find money buried in the sand. _____
2. I walked to the closest park with my friend Sally. None
3. I want to eat pizza for dinner. _____
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Answer Key Continued

Part 3: What is the infinitive acting as? Noun (N), Adverb (ADV), or Adjective (ADJ)? Write your answer on the line. The infinitive phrase is underlined for you.

N 1. Mia tried to solve the problem by herself.

ADJ 2. Your idea to spend the day together sounds perfect.

ADV 3. The mechanic opened the hood of the car to check the engine.

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ADV 5. Lorraine drove to New York to see a Broadway play.

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