

Infinitives

16i. An *infinitive* is a verb form that can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. Most infinitives begin with *to*.

NOUN To write has long been my dream.

ADJECTIVE This is the coat to buy.

ADVERB Arthur was unable to sleep.

OMITTING TO Please let us [to] talk to Jan.

EXERCISE A Underline the infinitives in the sentences below.

Example 1. Let's go.

1. With so many leaves and so little breeze, we should start to rake now.
2. Uncle Stan and I took the canoe out onto the lake to fish.
3. In *Any Given Day*, 98-year-old Jessie Foveaux had many entertaining memories to tell.
4. To succeed had always been Barbara's goal for her golf game.
5. Rhode Island's senator felt that in his position integrity was not too much to expect.
6. Is it true that to question is an indication of intelligence?
7. What made you laugh?
8. To live, you must dream.
9. Our team's first wish for the final game of the season is to win.
10. On this record, will we hear Hoyt Axton sing?

EXERCISE B Underline the infinitives in the sentences below. Then, indicate how each infinitive in the sentence is used by writing above it *N* for *noun*, *ADJ* for *adjective*, or *ADV* for *adverb*.

Example 1. If Ellen could help me wash and dry, I could go home on time.

11. For you, what is the easiest number to remember?
12. To graduate has great significance in Judy's family.
13. Before 7:00 A.M., sixty students had already logged on to register.
14. Why did Jim decide to leave early?
15. Because we had come to the park to camp and hike, Ben started setting up tents.