

20.1 Infinitives in Phrases • Practice 1

Three Uses of Infinitives An infinitive is the form of a verb that comes after the word *to* and acts as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

INFINITIVES
I want <u>to succeed</u> . (Used as a noun, the direct object)
The man <u>to see</u> is Dr. Chu. (Used as an adjective)
She is happy <u>to go</u> . (Used as an adverb)

Infinitive Phrases An infinitive phrase is an infinitive with modifiers or a complement, all working as a single part of speech.

INFINITIVE PHRASES
I want <u>to succeed in high school</u> . (Used as a noun, the direct object)
The man <u>to see today</u> is Dr. Chu. (Used as an adjective)
She is happy <u>to go with us</u> . (Used as an adverb)

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases.** Underline the infinitive or infinitive phrase in each sentence. In the space provided, tell whether it is used as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

- EXAMPLE:** To win is not that important. noun
- Louise decided to go tomorrow. noun
 - Her desire to act is very strong. adj
 - This new novel is easy to read. adv.
 - To reach the high school is not that simple. noun
 - We expect to drive to Baltimore. noun
 - They are too lazy to walk to school. adv.
 - The place to visit is the Library of Congress. adj
 - Her idea of breakfast is to have a cup of coffee. noun
 - To reach that number is not possible on this phone. noun
 - He had no choice except to go. noun

Exercise 2 **Using Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases in Sentences.** Write original sentences that use the infinitive or infinitive phrases below.

- EXAMPLE:** to wait for friends
I have to wait for friends.
- to buy a backpack I want to buy a backpack.
 - to talk endlessly Her speciality is to talk endlessly.
 - to practice She promised to practice.
 - to listen carefully To listen carefully is an art.
 - to open a window Do you want to open a window?

20.1

Infinitives in Phrases • Practice 2

Exercise 1

Identifying Infinitives. Underline the infinitive in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE: They were always eager to answer.

1. She wants to go.
2. Impossible to miss, the monument is right on the lake.
3. The recipe to try is on the package itself.
4. To listen is not easy with that uproar.
5. He wanted nothing except to sleep.
6. The librarian was happy to help.
7. His greatest wish, to fly, was never fulfilled.
8. This is the best reference book to consult.
9. Susan's dream is to dance.
10. To whistle is difficult for some people.

Exercise 2

Identifying Infinitive Phrases. Underline each infinitive phrase.

EXAMPLE: To reach the peak was not possible in the blizzard.

1. To graduate a year early is my goal.
2. The teacher to ask for a reference is Miss Stevens.
3. I find it difficult to talk with strangers.
4. Her ambition is to direct a musical at school.
5. This is an offer to take very seriously.
6. To get home during the storm was quite difficult.
7. Our plan was to reach southern Maine by noon.
8. She was told to reorganize her composition.
9. The person to ask about that is James.
10. They want to wait another week before acting.

Writing Application

Writing Sentences with Infinitive Phrases. Write an original sentence using each of the following infinitive phrases according to the directions in parentheses.

EXAMPLE: to please Uncle Pete (as an adverb)
It was difficult to please Uncle Pete.

1. to succeed in English (as a subject at the beginning of the sentence)
To succeed in English requires attention and practice.
2. to go into business (as a direct object with the verb *want*)
They want to go into business next year.
3. to reach the station (as an adverb after the adjective *easy*)
It is quite easy to reach the station.
4. to become a lawyer (as a predicate noun after the verb *is*)
John is to become a lawyer
5. to ask for advice (as an adjective after the noun *teacher*)
Ms Ann is the teacher to ask for advice.