

The Infinitive

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

INFINITIVE USED AS NOUN **To heal** was the athlete's first priority.

INFINITIVE USED AS ADJECTIVE The player **to watch** this season is Rodney.

INFINITIVE USED AS ADVERB This speech will be easy **to memorize**.

EXERCISE Underline the infinitives in the following sentences. If a sentence does not contain an infinitive, write *none* after the sentence.

Examples 1. Which is the healthier meal to eat?

2. Will you give your dessert to me? *none*

1. When you need help with math, Maddie is the one to ask.
2. When I play racquetball, I play to win.
3. Robin Hood stole from the rich and gave to the poor.
4. To interrupt was not my intention.
5. If you start the project, you must be sure to finish.
6. In my opinion, the fashion accessory to have this season is a silver charm bracelet.
7. I go to the local thrift store to shop.
8. The clothing to donate is in a box.
9. Our plan for the day is to hike.
10. The place to shop is the new mall downtown.
11. We plan to go first thing in the morning.
12. To whom should I address this letter?
13. Some people think martial arts are difficult to learn.
14. I don't know which film to recommend.
15. Have you decided what you want to eat?
16. Going to the YMCA is fine with me.
17. To exercise is one of my goals this semester.
18. Has Juanita begun to study?
19. Shelly recommended a great poem to read.
20. Roberto went home early to rest.

The Infinitive Phrase

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 stay in shape** requires dedication and discipline.

ADJECTIVE The thing **to do first** is an activity you enjoy.

ADVERB I came to Austin **to see the art exhibit**.

EXERCISE A For each of the following sentences, underline the infinitive phrase. If a sentence does not contain an infinitive phrase, write *none* after the sentence.

Example 1. The place to go for information is the library.

- At the library I found a book about yoga to read over the weekend.
- The goal of yoga is to relieve stress and tension.
- Around test time, I definitely need to reduce stress!
- Yoga also helps to increase flexibility and muscle tone.
- To most people, beginning a yoga routine is easy.
- The yoga positions to practice first can be learned from a book or video.
- To do the more difficult movements and stretches requires more experience.
- At that point, it is probably better to work with a yoga instructor.
- For now, I've chosen to learn a routine for flexibility.
- After I master the basics, I'll train to become a yoga instructor.

EXERCISE B On the lines provided, write sentences using each of the following infinitive phrases.

Example 1. to make the honor roll To make the honor roll, I must improve my grades.

11. to wake me up in the morning _____

12. to arrive at La Guardia Airport in New York _____

13. to surprise my best friend _____

14. to plan the party for Saturday night _____

15. to succeed in my goals _____
