

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Infinitives

An **infinitive** is a verb form that can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. The word *to* usually appears before the infinitive.

Examples: It is important **to listen**.
He is the one **to ask**.

Directions: Circle the infinitive in each sentence below.

1. "To conquer Mount Everest is my goal!" exclaimed Erika.
2. In the past, Burton was terrified to play the tuba on Tuesdays.
3. "To succeed takes courage, foresight, and luck," announced Nik to an awestruck Cameron.
4. Stranded in the freezing snowstorm, all Kira wanted was to survive.
5. Afraid to move, Evan froze in terror as the huge cobra slithered over his left foot.

An **infinitive phrase** is an infinitive with modifiers or a complement, all acting together as a single part of speech.

Examples: It is important **to listen carefully**.
It is not polite **to listen through the keyhole**.
I want **to hear the news**.
They want **to give you a present**.

Directions: Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence below.

1. Andrew knows that to drive up a hill of butter is impossible.
2. Sam told J.J. that he'd like to travel to Timbuktu.
3. Courtney told Dylan to kick the football at Henry.
4. Liam built a storm cellar in which to shelter during tornadoes.
5. Mitchell's dream, to fly an M-16, was finally coming true!
6. Ben and Zach tried to follow orders, but they failed.
7. Karin and Franny's decision, to stop and get a cup of coffee, made them late for English class.
8. Erica was about to jump into the tub of Jello when her mother got home.
9. After he hit the squirrel, Bruce had no choice except to drive on.
10. Sean's suggestion, to listen carefully, was appreciated.
11. Tyler and Jonathan wanted to listen carefully to Ms. Mathews.

