Infinitive is the base form of a verb. It has some properties of the verb because it names an action or state but it cannot show person, number, or mood.

**Types of Infinitive**

Infinitives may be used with the particle ‘to’ in front of it (‘full infinitive’) or without ‘to’ (‘bare infinitive’):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>full infinitive</th>
<th>bare infinitive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to be</td>
<td>be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to have</td>
<td>have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to make</td>
<td>make</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to sleep</td>
<td>sleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to go</td>
<td>go</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Infinitives and Prepositional Phrases**

Be sure not to confuse an infinitive — a verbal consisting of ‘to’ plus a verb — with a prepositional phrase beginning with ‘to’, which consists of ‘to’ plus a noun or pronoun and any modifiers.

- **Infinitives:** to fly, to draw, to become, to enter, to stand, to catch, to belong
- **Prepositional Phrases:** to him, to the committee, to my house, to the mountains, to us, to this address
Full Infinitive

Although infinitive is based on a verb, it may function as a subject, direct object, subject complement, adjective, or adverb in a sentence.

When to use a full infinitive

Full infinitive may be used in a sentence in several ways:

1) as a subject of a sentence

   • *To err is human, to forgive divine.*

2) in a phrase that expresses some purpose or intent

   • *My plan is to go to the zoo tomorrow.*

3) after an indirect object

   • *My secretary told me to call you back.*

4) after certain other verbs, like attempt, choose, decide, hope, manage, plan, promise, refuse, seem, and more:

   • *She attempted to find a free place in the hall.*
   • *I hope to meet you here next month.*
   • *Mike promised to be more attentive at school.*

Learn about the functions of infinitive in a sentence here.

Bare Infinitive
When to use a bare infinitive

Bare infinitives are used:

1) after modal verbs (except for ought to, have to, be to)
   - You should **wear** a warm coat.

2) after will/shall
   - I **shall call** her tomorrow.

3) after verbs of perception
   - She heard the door **close**.

4) after the verbs ‘let’, ‘make’, have’
   - Let him **behave** the way he wants.

5) after the expressions ‘would rather’/had better’
   - I would rather **go** to the cinema.

6) to form **imperatives**
   - **Enjoy** your stay at our hotel!
   - **Pass** me the salt, please.

Here’s an interesting video about infinitives:

See also:

**Uses of Infinitive**
Verb Patterns: Verb+Gerund vs Verb+Infinitive