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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'*):

full infinitive bare infinitive

<i>to be</i>	<i>be</i>
<i>to have</i>	<i>have</i>
<i>to make</i>	<i>make</i>
<i>to sleep</i>	<i>sleep</i>
<i>to go</i>	<i>go</i>

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](#)