

# Verbals—Infinitive Phrases

*Reteaching*

An **infinitive** is a verbal that usually begins with the word *to* and acts as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. In each example below, the infinitive is *to be*. An **infinitive phrase** consists of an infinitive plus its complements and modifiers.

**As noun** To be a recording star sounds exciting. (subject of sentence)  
 Trina wants to be a recording star. (direct object)  
 Trina's wish is to be a recording star. (predicate nominative)

**As adjective** A desire to be famous is natural. (to be *famous* modifies *desire*)

**As adverb** To be successful, Trina will need luck as well as talent and drive.  
 (*To be successful* modifies *will need*, telling why.)

## A. Identifying Infinitives

Underline the infinitive in each sentence.

1. Bill's goal is to become a psychiatrist someday.
2. Local patriots decided to throw the tea into the harbor.
3. Who wants to go with me to the game?
4. Paramedics arrived and tried to revive the victim.
5. Tony worked to earn money for a bicycle.
6. Paula would like to learn some Spanish before her trip to Mexico.
7. The umpire stopped to clean home plate.
8. To save time, playwright George Bernard Shaw learned shorthand.
9. To listen well is an important skill.
10. The manager of the team didn't want to miss the kickoff.

## B. Identifying Infinitive Phrases

Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence. On the blank, write how it is used: **N** for noun, **ADJ** for adjective, or **ADV** for adverb.

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. <u>To understand the difference between a democracy and a republic</u> is important.    | <u>N</u>   |
| 2. The captain struggled <u>to regain control of the foundering ship</u> .                 | <u>ADV</u> |
| 3. The political prisoner refused <u>to denounce his principles</u> .                      | <u>N</u>   |
| 4. Magellan's ship was the first <u>to circumnavigate the globe</u> .                      | <u>ADJ</u> |
| 5. The class approved the decision <u>to offer tutoring services to younger children</u> . | <u>ADJ</u> |
| 6. Kara's plan is <u>to take a trip to Australia next year</u> .                           | <u>N</u>   |
| 7. The hill above the town is the best place <u>to watch the fireworks</u> .               | <u>ADJ</u> |
| 8. Prospective team members must promise <u>to attend regular practice sessions</u> .      | <u>N</u>   |

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CHAPTER 3

**Verbals—Infinitive Phrases***More Practice***A. Identifying Infinitive Phrases**

Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence. On the blank, write how it is used:

**N** for noun, **ADJ** for adjective, or **ADV** for adverb.

1. To get rich quickly is a dream for many people. N
2. A few people act to make that dream come true. ADV
3. About 100 years ago, the chance to strike it rich appeared in Alaska. ADJ
4. A few prospectors brave enough to explore the frozen interior found gold in the summer of 1896. ADV
5. The first lucky adventurers hoped to stake their claims before word reached the outside world. N
6. They had good reasons to worry about losing their opportunity. ADJ
7. When the first ship to carry gold out of Alaska reached Seattle the following summer, news of the discovery spread like wildfire. ADJ
8. People from all over the world spent all their savings to make their way to Alaska. ADJ
9. Unfortunately, to come late to a gold rush guarantees disappointment. N
10. A few people made fortunes and left wealthy; others learned to love Alaska and stayed, with or without gold. N

**B. Using Infinitive Phrases**

Use each of the following infinitive phrases in a sentence.

1. to revive the victim speedily

\_\_\_\_\_

2. to arrange flowers attractively

\_\_\_\_\_

3. to provide a good target for the baseball pitcher

\_\_\_\_\_

4. to swim in the Olympics

\_\_\_\_\_

5. to explore the depths of the ocean

\_\_\_\_\_