

**Verbals: Infinitive Phrases****Reteaching**

An **infinitive** is a verb form that usually begins with the word *to* and acts as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. An **infinitive phrase** consists of an infinitive plus its modifiers and complements. Since an infinitive is formed from a verb, it may have an object.

- As noun**      To keep library records up to date is easy on the computer. (subject of sentence)  
Patrons like to know the location of selected books. (direct object)
- As adjective**      Current efforts to computerize all library records are making progress.  
(*To computerize all library records* modifies *efforts*.)
- As adverb**      The time needed to find a book has been reduced considerably. (*To find a book* modifies *needed*, telling how a thing is needed.)

An infinitive with a modifier between *to* and the verb is called a **split infinitive**. An example is *to quickly find* rather than *to find quickly*. Although split infinitives are acceptable in informal speech and writing, avoid them in formal writing.

**A. Identifying Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases**

Underline the infinitive phrase once in each sentence. Underline the infinitive twice.

- 10-5 1. To spend a day without encountering some type of computer is impossible.
2. Most retail stores use computers to keep an accurate count of their merchandise in stock. Adv.
3. Computer analysis of geological areas helps oil companies to select drilling sites. Adv.
4. Giant computerized "arms" help to pour molten steel into molds. Adv.
5. Highly specialized computers are needed to navigate spacecrafts. Adv.
6. A programming mistake may cause an entire mission to fail. Adv.
7. Many animated films use computers to produce high quality pictures. Adv.
8. Presently, great strides are being made to design even more complex computers that think for themselves. Adv.

**B. Identifying Infinitive Phrases**

Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence. On the blank to the right of each sentence, **N** for a noun, **ADJ** for an adjective, or **ADV** for an adverb.

1. The selection committee plans to evaluate the qualifications of the candidates. N-DO
2. To combat rabies is one reason for inoculating pets. N-S
3. The owner of the amusement park uses admission fees to pay his property taxes. Adv.
4. The purpose of the gathering was to celebrate the town's bicentennial. N-PRO
5. The Great Wall of China was built to protect China from northern invaders. Adv.
6. The president of the company asked her to call a meeting. N-DO
7. Maoris, the first people to inhabit New Zealand, belong to the Polynesian race. Adj.
8. Unfortunately, we arrived too late to catch the beginning of the show. Adv.

# Verbals: Infinitive Phrases

## More Practice

### A. Identifying Infinitive Phrases

Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence. On the blank to the right of each sentence, write **N** for a noun, **ADJ** for an adjective, or **ADV** for an adverb.

1. This word processing program is not difficult to use. Adv
2. What is to be gained from the use of word processing? N-PRO
3. To make additions, deletions, and corrections is quite easy. N-S
4. You will easily learn to rearrange pieces of text. N-DO
5. As a result, you are free to make changes almost endlessly. Adv
6. When the time to produce a final copy arrives, the printer performs the task automatically. Adj
7. There is no longer any need to retype pages of text. Adj
8. A word-processing system enables you to store your text for future use. N-PRO
9. To produce multiple copies of form letters is a simple task. N-S
10. The original purpose of word-processing systems was simply to produce written material faster and easier. N-PRO
11. Now, even elementary schools students use computers to do their homework. adv
12. In fact, more advanced word-processing skills include the ability to add charts and line art to a document. adj

### B. Using Infinitive Phrases

Write a sentence using each of the following infinitive phrases.

1. to explore a deep cave  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. to arrive on time  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. to remember the words of old songs  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. to listen to country music  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. to watch a parade  
\_\_\_\_\_