Infinitives

By:

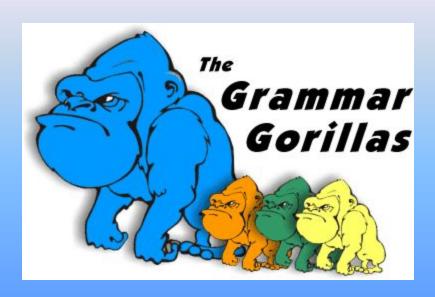
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What is an Infinitive?

"An infinitive is a verb form, usually preceded by *to*, that can be used as a noun, adjective, or adverb" –English Composition and Grammar Book

In other words....

Infinitives are verbs that can be used as nouns

Example: To smile is to be happy.

to smile is an infinitive because it acts as the subject of the sentence

Infinitives are verbs that can be used as adjectives

That is the book to read.

to read is an infinitive because it uses a verb to modify or describe the object of the sentence

Infinitives are verbs that can be used as adverbs

He ran to win.

to win is an infinitive because it modifies or describes a verb

Infinitives Without The Word 4707

- Some infinitives are not proceeded by the word "to"
 Example:
- Please let me help.

Help is the infinitive of the sentence because it acts as a verb, and modifies the object of the sentence.

(*why is help an infinitive and not a verb? *Let* acts as the verb in the sentence, and therefore help is a verb that is acting as a noun, making it the infinitive.)

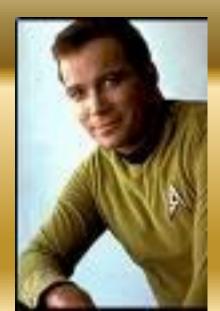
Split Infinitives

• Split Infinitives: Any time a word is placed in between the "to" and the verb of an infinitive.

Ex: "To boldly go where no one has gone before."

- Star Trek

Captain James Tiberius Kirk



Find the Infinitive

Label your paper 1- 5 and write the infinitive of each sentence. Then, write if it is acting as a noun, an adverb, or an adjective. Check your answers on the answer key and discuss your answers with a partner.

- To succeed requires determination.
- Judaism is the way to go.
- Students need to learn.
- I'll help you study.
- I am going to see a movie.

Answer Key

- To succeed- noun
- To go- adjective
- To learn- adverb
- Study- adjective
- To See- adverb