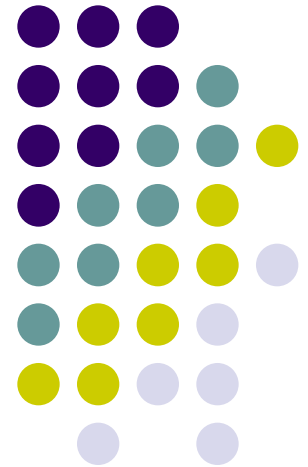


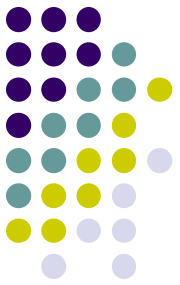
The Infinitive and the Infinitive Phrase



What is an Infinitive?



- An infinitive looks like a verb, but it begins with “**TO**”, and it functions as a noun (subject, direct object, predicate nominative), adjective, or adverb.



Wait just a minute ...

- An infinitive phrase = to + verb
- BUT IT NEVER FUNCTIONS AS THE VERB IN A SENTENCE!!!!

NEVER, EVER, EVER ...

EVER

Role #1

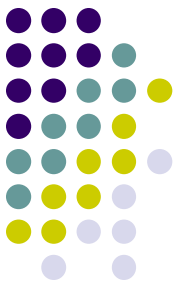
Infinitive = Noun

3 different types

- To leave the party would be rude.
- **To leave** ...infinitive as the subject

- No one wants to stay.
- **To stay** ...infinitive as the Direct Object

- Her goal is to win.
- **To win** ...infinitive as the Predicate Nominative or Predicate Noun



Role #2

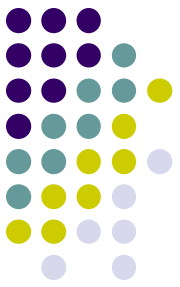
Infinitive = Adjective



- Samuel White is the candidate to watch this election.
- **To watch** ...infinitive as an adjective
Which candidate is Samuel...the one **to watch**.
- **To watch** gives more info. about candidate – a big hint is the adj. comes just after the noun it modifies.

Role #3

Infinitive = Adverb



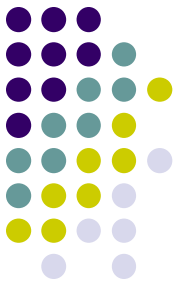
- We came to cheer.
- **To cheer** ...infinitive as an adverb
Why did they come... **to cheer**
- **To cheer** gives more information about the verb.

What is an Infinitive Phrase?



- An infinitive phrase begins with the infinitive (starts with “to + verb”) and includes all of its modifiers.

The Infinitive Phrase

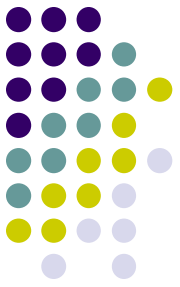


- To get a medical degree is her goal.
- To get a medical degree is her goal.

- We have time to walk to the game.
- We have time to walk to the game.

- He is eager to give Cory the award.
- He is eager to give Cory the award.

INFINITIVE PHRASE OR PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE?

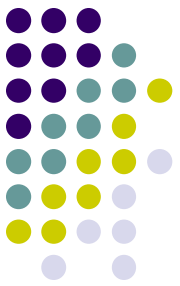


- Both phrases begin with “to”.
- Infinitive phrase is “to + verb”
- Prepositional phrase is “to + noun/pronoun”
- I wanted to walk to the beach.
- I wanted **to walk** (infinitive) **to** the beach (preposition).

What Are You Expected To Do With Infinitive Phrases?

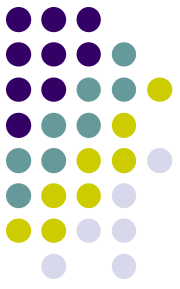


- Be able to locate, identify, and determine the function of infinitive phrases in sentences
- Be able to use infinitive phrases in your own writing to modify and enhance your thoughts, along with adding variety to your sentence beginnings



Infinitive Order...

- S (is the subject of the sentence)
- PN (follows a linking verb)
- DO (follows an action verb; answers “what”)
- ADJ (follows and describes a noun or pronoun...answers “what or which”)
- ADV (follows and describes a verb, adjective, or adverb...answers “why”)



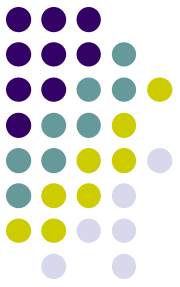
Infinitive Order...Subject

1. Put prepositional phrases in parenthesis.
2. Find the verb.
3. Check and determine if the infinitive phrase is the subject...

To open the box required (verb) a hammer and crowbar.

Infinitive Order...

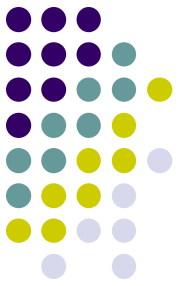
Predicate Nominative



1. Put prepositional phrases in parenthesis.
2. Find the verb.
3. If the verb is a linking verb (am, is, are, was, were, etc.), the infinitive phrase is the PN.

Alex's hobby **is (verb)** to spend hours each day developing new computer programs.

Common linking & helping verbs (used with PN)



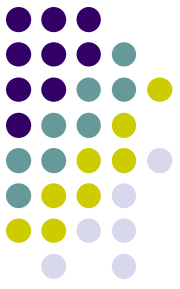
Am	Be	Can	May	Have	Do
Are	Been	Could	Must	Has	Does
Is	Being	Shall	Might	Had	Did
Was	Became	Should			Done
Were	Become	Will			
		Would			

Infinitive Order...Direct Object



1. Put prepositional phrases in parenthesis.
2. Find the verb.
3. If the verb is an action verb (it can be done – it's a DO), ask “WHAT” after the verb.
4. If the infinitive phrase makes sense, you have a DO.

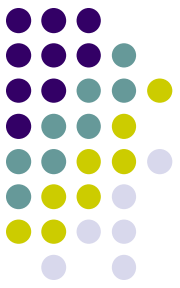
The band and choir **try** (verb) to work together during the musical. (try what? To work together during the musical)



Infinitive Order...Adjective

1. Cross out all prepositional phrases.
2. Find the verb.
3. Look at the last word directly before the infinitive phrase.
4. If the word is a noun or pronoun, the infinitive phrase is an adjective.

The **ability (noun)** for toddlers (prep...ignore) **to speak clearly** happens after four years of age. (answers “what/which ability”)



Infinitive Order...Adverb

1. Put prepositional phrases in parenthesis.
2. Find the verb.
3. Look at the last word directly before the infinitive phrase.
4. If the word is a verb, adjective, or adverb, the infinitive phrase is an adverb.

We **went** (verb) to Italy (prep...ignore) to see
our grandparents. (answers “why we went”)

Do not “split” infinitives!! – It’s a pet peeve of mine.

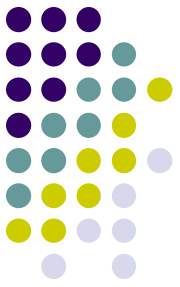


Split infinitives occur when additional words are included between *to* and the verb in an infinitive. Many readers find a single adverb splitting the infinitive to be acceptable, but this practice should be avoided in formal writing.

•Examples:

- I like to on a nice day walk in the woods. * (unacceptable- NO-NO)
On a nice day, I like to walk in the woods. (revised - YES)
- I needed to quickly gather my personal possessions. (unacceptable)
I needed to gather my personal possessions quickly. (revised)

How does the infinitive phrase function?



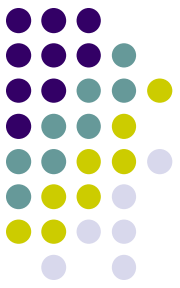
- Her plan to subsidize child care won wide acceptance among urban politicians.
[modifies _____, functions as an _____]
- She wanted to raise taxes. [wanted *what?*
Functions as the _____ of the sentence]

How does the infinitive phrase function?



- To watch Uncle Billy at family reunions is an eye-opening experience. [functions as the _____ of the sentence]
- To know her in life is to love her. [functions as the _____, since the sent. has a _____]
- Juan went to college to study veterinary medicine. [tells us *why* he went, so it functions as an _____]

In the following paragraph, underline the inf. phrases and place the prep. phrases in parenthesis.



To be a great football player is more than just the ability to play well. The character of the team comes in to play because if the players acts without integrity, then the team tends to be divided. Now, I'm not talking about players and sissy stuff, rather I'm talking about respect and honor on the field. To be able to hold your head high is a key to success on the field and off the field.