

# THE INFINITIVE PHRASE

**An infinitive** is a verb form that can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. Most infinitives begin with *to*. **An infinitive phrase** is made up of an infinitive and any complements (direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, or modifiers.) The entire phrase can be used as **noun, adjective, or adverb.**

## EXAMPLES:

<b>Noun</b>	<b>To graduate and become a police officer</b> is her primary goal.
<b>Adjective</b>	This is the coat <b>to buy for winter.</b>
<b>Adverb</b>	I may travel to Egypt next summer <b>to visit the pyramids.</b>

**EXERCISE A:** Find the INFINITIVE or the INFINITIVE PHRASE in each of the following sentences. Then, write whether the phrase is used as NOUN, ADJECTIVE, or ADVERB.

1. Marina took the time to decorate her bedroom.

**Infinitive Phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Used as:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. My dream has always been to travel to India.

**Infinitive Phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Used as:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. After watching the movie, my sister was unable to sleep.

**Infinitive Phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Used as:** \_\_\_\_\_

4. Summer is a great time to be in Miami.

**Infinitive Phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Used as:** \_\_\_\_\_

5. To study a foreign language is a worthwhile pursuit.

**Infinitive Phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Used as:** \_\_\_\_\_

6. My best friend Eddie was not the first one to leave the classroom.

**Infinitive Phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Used as:** \_\_\_\_\_

7. The salesperson measured Andy's arm to determine his sleeve size.

**Infinitive Phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Used as:** \_\_\_\_\_

8. To improve sustainable agriculture is one of the goals of organic farming.

**Infinitive Phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Used as:** \_\_\_\_\_

9. To remember a conversation from five years ago is quite a tricky task.

**Infinitive Phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Used as:** \_\_\_\_\_

10. Rotating crops and sowing pest-resistant plants are options to employ for pest control.

**Infinitive Phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Used as:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE B:** Find the ADVERB INFINITIVE in each of the following sentences. Then, write what each adverb infinitive modifies.

1. Are you old enough to drive?

**Adverb Infinitive:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Modifies:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. The crowd had come to demonstrate against his cruelty.

**Adverb Infinitive:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Modifies:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. I would be happy to help you.

**Adverb Infinitive:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Modifies:** \_\_\_\_\_

4. No one came to see the old man.

**Adverb Infinitive:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Modifies:** \_\_\_\_\_

5. The commentator stopped to clarify his statement.

**Adverb Infinitive:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Modifies:** \_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWERS:

### EXERCISE A:

	<b>Infinitive Phrase</b>	<b>Used as</b>
1.	to decorate her bedroom	Adjective
2.	to travel to India	Noun
3.	to sleep	Adverb
4.	to be in Miami	Adjective
5.	To study a foreign language	Noun
6.	to leave the classroom	Adjective
7.	to determine his sleeve's size	Adverb
8.	To improve sustainable agriculture	Noun
9.	To remember a conversation from five years ago	Noun
10.	to employ for pest control.	Adjective

### EXERCISE B:

	<b>Adverb Infinitive</b>	<b>Modifies</b>
1.	to drive	old
2.	to demonstrate against his cruelty	had come
3.	to help you	happy
4.	to see the old man	came
5.	to clarify his statement	stopped