

# 7

## Infinitive Phrases

Infinitive phrases may function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

1. <i>Nominal function</i>	
a. subject	For her to clean the house every day is absolutely necessary.
	or
b. object of verb	It is absolutely necessary for her to clean the house every day.
c. subjective complement (predicate noun)	Her husband wants her to clean the house every day.
d. appositive	The regulation is for boys and girls to live in separate dormitories.
	He had only one desire—for his family to be in good health.
2. <i>Adjectival function</i>	Here is a letter for you to type.
3. <i>Adverbial function</i>	
a. modifier of a sentence	To tell the truth, I don't understand him at all.
b. modifier of a verb	(In order) for me to buy a car, I'll have to take a loan from the bank.
c. modifier of an adjective	I'm sorry to see you leave.
	This music is too hard for me to play correctly.

### 7-1

#### FORMS OF THE INFINITIVE

	Active Voice		Passive Voice
	<i>Progressive</i>		
General form (present infinitive)	to offer	to be offering	to be offered
Perfect form	to have offered	to have been offering	to have been offered

Note that all forms of the infinitive begin with **to**. Infinitives are generally made negative by placing **not** before the **to**.

**General Forms****TO OFFER, TO BE OFFERING, TO BE OFFERED**

These forms express time that is simultaneous with, or future from, that of the main verb.

Supply the required form of the infinitive.

**EXAMPLE:** a. They expect (see) their new grandson soon.  
They expect to see their new grandson soon.

b. They appear (have) an argument.  
They appear to be having an argument.

c. He gave the report to his secretary (type).  
He gave the report to his secretary to be typed.

1. The children quarreled over who was (get) the candy.

2. I don't know how (do) this exercise.

3. (understand) is (forgive).

4. At the present time, he is believed (recuperate) from a serious illness.

5. Please give me a vase (put) the flowers in.

6. In order (gain) the child's confidence, you must be strict but fair with him.

7. In all athletic contests, it is important (not lose) sight of the opponent.

8. The child needs (reassure) that he is loved.

9. He was happy (relieve) of some of his duties.

10. I expect (see) him soon.

11. No one is compelling him (work) so hard.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. He appears (have) a hard time convincing his employer that he is right.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. The speaker refused (intimidate) by some threats from the audience.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. The kidnaper forced his victim (get) into the car.  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. She asked her daughter (not stay out) late at night.  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. This music is (play) with great animation.  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. The children appear (enjoy) themselves at the party.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Perfect Forms

#### TO HAVE OFFERED, TO HAVE BEEN OFFERING, TO HAVE BEEN OFFERED

These forms emphasize time that is completed before the time of the main verb.  
If such emphasis is not desired, the general forms are sometimes also possible.

Supply the perfect infinitive form.

EXAMPLE: a. I seem (lose) my key.

I seem to have lost my key.

b. The boy was too young (expose) to such a dangerous situation.

The boy was too young to have been exposed to such a dangerous situation.

1. I would have given my life (save) hers.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. He was found (misappropriate) the funds.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. We believe there (be) an accident at the corner a short while ago.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. He appeared (circulate, *progressive*) many lies about the company he was working for.  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. I would like (see) your wife's face when you gave her the diamond ring for her birthday.

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6. He is said (be) unscrupulous in his business dealings in his youth.

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7. He seems (not understand) the instructions that were given him.

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8. The accused man said that it was impossible for him (be) at the scene of the crime because he was in another town.

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9. He was shrewd enough (not deceive) by the promises made at the meeting last night.

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## 7-2

### FOR "SUBJECTS" OF INFINITIVE PHRASES

Many infinitive phrases do not have a "subject" included within them. If the "subject" is contained within the phrase, it takes a prepositional form that precedes the infinitive. The most usual preposition in such a use is **for**.

Make an infinitive phrase out of the words in parentheses. Use a **for** phrase "subject" of the infinitive.

EXAMPLE: a. It is not easy (I, get up, early).  
It is not easy for me to get up early.

b. (She, swim, English Channel) took a lot of courage.  
For her to swim the English Channel took a lot of courage.

1. In order (the children, get, plenty, rest), they all went to bed early every night during their trip.

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2. Her teacher is anxious (the girl, make up, work, she missed, during her illness).

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3. It will be necessary (we, get, our passports, this week).

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4. This question is too difficult (the students, answer).

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5. What I would like is (you, give, I, objective opinion, his matter).

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6. It is not possible (anyone, visit, the patient, now.)

---

7. There is too much work (they, take, coffee break).

---

8. It is useless (we, complain, our neighbor, their loud music).

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9. The house is unfit (anyone, live in).

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10. He doesn't make enough money (his family, take, vacation, summer).

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### 7-3 ANTICIPATORY *IT* WITH INFINITIVE PHRASE SUBJECTS

Infinitive phrase subjects occur chiefly with the verb **be**, causative verbs, verbs of emotion, and a few other verbs like **require**, **take**, **mean**.

For him to get the money now is impossible.  
To dress that way requires courage.

Such infinitive phrase subjects appear more commonly after anticipatory *it*.

It is impossible for him to get the money now.  
It requires courage to dress that way.

Change the following sentences so that the infinitive subjects are used after anticipatory *it*.

**EXAMPLE:** For them to lose their only son was a great tragedy.  
It was a great tragedy for them to lose their only son.

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1. For him to open up his own restaurant business would require a great deal of money.

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2. To be seen in town without a coat and tie would embarrass him.

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3. To grow lime trees in a cold climate is impossible.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. To pursue this train of thought would be worthwhile.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. For anyone to do better than he does irritates him.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Never to see him again would make her very sad.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. To keep looking young forever is an ideal of many women.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. To cook tasty but economical dishes requires much ingenuity.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. To get him to come with us won't be easy.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. For anyone to have made such a mess of things is shocking.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. To watch our neighbor's cat come begging for food is amusing.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. To change the rebellion into a revolution won't take much.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. To hire an inexperienced person is against our policy.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. To build such a bridge will be a difficult task.  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. For me to speak in public is very embarrassing.  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. For us to appeal to him for money would be useless.  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. To be interrupted while he is writing annoys him very much.  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. For the school to have suspended so many students seems unfair.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 7-4

OF, TO "SUBJECTS"  
OF INFINITIVE PHRASES

After anticipatory *it*, the preposition used with the "subject" of the infinitive may be not only *for*, but *of* or *to*.

*Of "subjects" of infinitives after certain adjectives:*

1. **foolish, impertinent, polite, proper, rude, stupid, wicked, wise** (less commonly, also with *for*);

2. **generous, good, intelligent, kind, unworthy.**

*To "subjects" of infinitives after -ing participial adjectives expressing emotional states—alarming, amusing, disappointing, embarrassing, irritating, shocking, etc. (With some of these adjectives, for is also occasionally used.)*

*Of or to "subjects," unlike for "subjects," must remain after the predicate adjectives.*

Make infinitive phrases from the words in parentheses. Use *of* or *to* before the "subject" of the infinitive.

EXAMPLE: a. It would be foolish (you, stop, now).

It would be foolish of you (*less commonly for you*) to stop now.

b. It was amazing (I, learn, how young, mayor, be).

It was amazing to me to learn how young the mayor was.

1. It was very impertinent (the child, make, such, remark).

2. It was rude (that man, not, to take, hat, off, in, elevator).

3. It's wrong (they, give, the child, everything, he, want).

4. It is distressing (we, see, how thin and pale, she, become).

5. It was embarrassing (he, be, so highly praised).

6. It was shocking (the audience, see, so much, violence, on, screen).

7. It was generous (you, give, all, that money, blind man).

8. It is fascinating (the child, observe, way, toy, work).

9. It is unworthy (public official, accept, bribe).

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10. It is satisfying (her parents, know, that, her husband, be, very kind, she).

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11. It was kind (you, visit, I, in, hospital).

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12. It is irritating (I, hear, she, always, complaining).

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13. It was not polite (young child, take, last piece, cake).

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## 7-5

### INFINITIVE PHRASES AS OBJECTS OF VERBS

Verbs taking infinitive objects may be divided into three groups according to what functions as the "subject" of the infinitive.

#### 1. The subject of the main verb is the "subject" of the infinitive

afford	endeavor	resolve
arrange	expect	seek
bother	fail	strive
care ( <i>neg. and</i>	forget	struggle
<i>interrog.</i> )	hope	swear
choose (= prefer)	learn	tend
claim	manage	threaten
consent	mean	undertake
decide	pretend	venture
deserve	proceed	volunteer
determine	refuse	

I can't afford to buy a new coat.

(The infinitive to buy refers to I, the subject of the main verb can't afford.)

#### 2. The object of the main verb is the "subject" of the infinitive

advise	empower	motivate
allow	enable	oblige
cause	encourage	order
caution	entitle	permit
challenge	forbid	persuade
coerce	force	remind

compel	get (= cause)	request
condemn	implore	require
convince	incite	teach
dare (= challenge)	induce	tell
defy	instruct	tempt
direct	invite	urge

I advise you to buy a new coat.

(The infinitive **to buy** refers to **you**, the *object* of the main verb **advise**.)

3. Either the **subject** or the **object** of the main verb may be the "subject" of the infinitive

ask	expect	promise
beg	(dis)like	want
desire	prepare	wish

I want to buy a new coat

(**To buy** refers to **I**, the *subject* of **want**.)

I want you to buy a new coat.

(**To buy** refers to **you**, the *object* of **want**.)

Form an infinitive phrase from the words in parentheses.

### Infinitives Referring to Subjects of Main Verbs

EXAMPLE: a. We expect (receive, his letter, few weeks).

We expect to receive his letter in a few weeks.

b. He deserves (punish, what he did).

He deserves to be punished for what he did.

1. He failed (appear, court, when, he, suppose to).

2. We hope (improve, this machine, near future).

3. They are planning (cross, ocean).

4. Would you care (have, your car, wash)?

5. He claims (descend, a royal family).

6. They were resolved (carry through, plan, they, make).

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7. He always manages (assign, easiest tasks).

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8. She desires (not, disturb, an hour).

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9. The boy is pretending (be, son, millionaire).

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10. The accused man has refused (sign, confession).

---

11. He swore (never, see, her, again).

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12. The couple decided (not, go, that restaurant, again).

---

13. The police are endeavoring (locate, the parents, lost child).

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14. He expects (not, draft, before, he, finish, college).

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15. The plant died because she neglected (water, it).

---

16. They are preparing (go, Africa).

---

17. I hope you will learn (be, patient, with, children, your class).

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### **Infinitives Referring to Objects of Main Verbs**

**EXAMPLE:** a. The doctor advised her (get, more rest).  
The doctor advised her to get more rest. (**active main verb**)

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b. He was advised (get, more rest).  
He was advised to get more rest. (**passive main verb**)

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1. He has defied his landlord (evict, he).

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2. The accident caused the victim (lose, eyesight).

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3. This coupon will entitle you (receive, 10% discount).

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4. She implored her husband (not, leave, she).

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5. He was invited (lecture, subject, ecology).

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6. He was finally permitted (leave, country).

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7. The speaker incited the mob (loot, burn).

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8. The court permitted her (have, custody, child).

---
9. The boy was encouraged (continue, his studies).

---
10. The doctor is trying to persuade the patient (remain, hospital, few more days).

---
11. In the old days a man could be challenged (fight, duel, pistols or swords).

---
12. Please remind me (take, my pill, lunchtime).

---
13. The students have been forbidden (smoke, the classroom).

---
14. The plumber asked them (turn off, water, few minutes).

---
15. His parents warned him (not, come, home, so late).

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16. All new students are required (report, health office, soon, possible).

---
17. He was warned (not, tell, what, he, know).

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## 7-6

## INFINITIVE vs. GERUND SUBJECTS

The greatest choice between the infinitive and the gerund is as subject. The infinitive generally represents an act or state as a whole, whereas the gerund represents an act or state in progress. *This kind of choice is usually possible if the main verb is present or future.*

To learn (or learning) a new language is difficult.

For us to back out (or our backing out) of the agreement would create much resentment.

*If the main verb indicates a past single action, or if the verb is in the passive voice, the gerund is usually required.*

Finding the answers **presented** a problem. (past main verb)

Her stealing merchandise from the store **will eventually be noticed**. (passive main verb)

Where possible, replace the verb in parentheses with *both a gerund and an infinitive*. Keep in mind that the infinitive is more restricted in its use as a subject than the gerund is.

EXAMPLE: a. (Locate) a suitable place for a meeting will take some time.

To locate (or Locating) a suitable place for a meeting will take some time.

b. (Interrogate) by the police is quite an ordeal.

To be interrogated (or Being interrogated) by the police is quite an ordeal.

c. (He, put) on parole was recommended by the prison authorities.

His being put on parole was recommended by the prison authorities.

(The infinitive is not used with a past verb or a passive main verb.)

1. (the committee, investigate) the matter now would only cause the government embarrassment.

2. (Live) at home would save that student a lot of money.

3. (Inherit) money one doesn't expect is a pleasant surprise.

4. (He, insult) the officer resulted in his arrest.

5. (She, take) so long to dress always annoyed her husband.

6. (Entertain) the troops is the only thing the singer does now.

7. (Plant) a garden takes skill and patience.

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8. (Save face) is more important in some cultures than in others.

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9. (Type) that long report will be expensive.

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10. (Rebuild) the cathedral that was bombed will cost a great deal of money.

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11. (Ship) the goods will take over a month.

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12. (Overlook) our faults is easy to do.

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## 7-7

### INFINITIVE vs. GERUND OBJECTS

Some verbs may be followed by either infinitive phrase objects or gerund phrase objects.

abhor	disdain	plan
attempt	dread	propose
cannot bear ( <i>also</i> <i>interrog.</i> )	endure	regret
begin	hesitate	remember
cease	hate	scorn
commence	intend	cannot stand ( <i>also</i> <i>interrog.</i> )
continue	(dis)like	start
decline	love	try
	neglect	

After **regret**, **remember**, the gerund often refers to past time, the infinitive to future time.

I remember taking care (*or having taken care*) of that matter. (past time)

I must remember to take care of that matter. (future time)

Use the infinitive or gerund form of the verb. If either form of verbal object may be used, give both.

**EXAMPLE:** a. They will begin (harvest) the wheat today.

They will begin to harvest (*or harvesting*) the wheat today. (The infinitive or the gerund may be used after **begin**.)

- b. We missed (see) you at the meeting.  
We missed seeing you at the meeting. (Only the gerund object is used after miss.)
- c. We arranged (meet) him at the station.  
We arranged to meet him at the station. (Only the infinitive is used after arrange.)

1. I never cease (wonder) at the stupidity of the man.  


---
2. The farmers risk (lose) their crops if it doesn't rain soon.  


---
3. A committee has already commenced (investigate) that terrible scandal.  


---
4. We enjoyed (meet) you last night.  


---
5. They will continue (work) seven days a week until the building is finished.  


---
6. I dread (see) the look on his face when he is told that his child has been injured.  


---
7. I expect (finish) the work next week.  


---
8. We must never neglect (do) our duty.  


---
9. We intend (leave) for Mexico.  


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10. He started (have) trouble with his skin a year ago.  


---
11. I dislike (get up) early.  


---
12. Try (go) to bed earlier.  


---
13. The boy refused (do) what he was told.  


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14. The cashier admitted (take) the money from the cash register.  


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15. She stopped (visit) her brother after a bitter quarrel they had.
- 
16. She can never resist (contradict) her husband.
- 
17. We regret (advise) you that we no longer manufacture the item you have ordered.
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18. They finished (take) inventory a few days ago.
- 
19. The driver put on his brakes to avoid (hit) the car in front of him.
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## 7-8

**TO-LESS INFINITIVES  
OR -ING PARTICIPLES IN TWO-PART OBJECTS**

Some verbs are followed by two-part objects containing **to**-less infinitives as the second part.

1. The causative verbs **make** (= compel), **have**  
     She made the children clean up their own rooms.  
     She had the maid clean all the rooms.
2. **Let** (= allow), **bid** (= request)  
     They let the children stay up late on weekends.  
     She bid the children be quiet.
3. **Help** (the omission of **to** is optional)  
     He helped the old woman (to) cross the street.

After certain verbs of perception, **to**-less infinitives are used as the second part of the object—**feel, hear, listen to, look at, notice, observe, overhear, see, watch**.

I heard the whistle blow a few minutes ago.  
 She watched the passengers get off the bus.

When the passive of such verbs is used, the **to** is usually required.

The children were made to clean their own rooms.  
 She was helped to see the error of her ways.

With the passive of verbs of perception, the infinitive with **to** or the **-ing** form is used.

He was heard to say that he would get revenge on the man who had cheated him.  
The youth was seen walking away from the scene of the murder.

### TO-less Infinitives

Use infinitive phrases in a two-part object based on the words in parentheses. Only passive main verbs will require the use of **to** before the infinitive.

**EXAMPLE:** a. Her absence made (he, realize, how much, he, love, she).

Her absence made him realize how much he loved her.

b. The musician was made (understand, he, can, not practice, late, night).

The musician was made to understand (that) he could not practice late at night.

1. The teacher is planning to have (all, children, write, story).  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The city officials made (old lady, get rid, some, her cats).  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Their mother lets (children, stay up, late, Saturday night).  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. She felt (blood, run, down, cheek).  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. He was helped (understand, he can, not, have, his own way, all, time).  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Please let (I, carry, those packages, you).  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. She bid (her husband, be, careful, when, he, return, home, late, night).  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. He was listening (a bird, sing, outside, his window).  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Can you help (I, locate, Main Street, this map)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. We heard (clock, strike, one).  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. The teacher made (all, poor students, take, test, again).  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. He is helping (his neighbors, paint, their house).

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13. I had (auto mechanic, change, tire, my car).

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14. We noticed (woman, come out, house).

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15. The club made (new members, undergo, an initiation).

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16. We had (carpenter, build, large cabinet).

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### TO-less Infinitives or Participles After Verbs of Perception

After the verbs of perception, either a **to-less infinitive** or a **participle** may be used—**She watched the children *cross* (or *crossing*) the street.**

Form two-part objects from the words in parentheses. In some of these objects, the infinitive will be preferred, in others, the participle; in still others, either one may be used.

EXAMPLE: a. He felt (something, go wrong, motor, his car).  
He felt something go wrong with the motor of his car.

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b. We heard (some people, sing, in, street).  
We heard some people singing in the street.

---

c. He listened (orchestra, rehearse, next performance).  
He listened to the orchestra rehearsing (or rehearse) for the next performance.

---

1. Can't you feel (that ant, crawl, your face)?

---

2. I heard (their car, pass, by, here, few minutes ago).

---

3. He listened reverently (minister, deliver, sermon, brotherly love).

---

4. Just look (she, pretend, not, notice, we).

---

5. The teacher noticed (one, the children, suddenly, begin, cry).

---

6. The child was last seen (talk, some schoolmates, schoolyard).

---

7. I overheard (they, gossip, our neighbors).

---

8. We observed (storekeeper, close, store, early, that day).

---

9. They were heard (say, they, never, come back, that restaurant, in, future).

---

10. After we drove for several miles, we began to see (some mountains, room, the distance).

---

11. She felt (the tears, come, her eyes).

---

12. Suddenly the air raid sirens were heard (warn, people, take shelter).

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## 7-9

### INFINITIVE PHRASES AS ALTERNATIVES FOR ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

In infinitive-phrase alternatives for adjective clauses, the noun or pronoun being modified usually represents the "subject" or "object" of the infinitive.

She has no one to help her. (= who can help her).

No one is the "subject" of **help**.

There are still many more things for me to do. (= which I must do)

Things is the "object" of **do**.

The next question to be considered (= which must be considered) is the crucial one.

Question is the "subject" of the passive **be considered**.

The infinitive phrase may also be an alternative for an adjectival **when** clause (**the best time to do it** = when you should do it) or a **where** clause (**a quiet place to study** = where you can study).

Change the adjective clauses to infinitive phrases.

- EXAMPLE:**
- a. On our farm there are many animals which we need to feed.  
On our farm there are many animals (for us) to feed. (The for phrase "subject" is often omitted if it can be implied from the rest of the sentence.)
  - b. The dishes which you have to wash are stacked on the kitchen counter.  
The dishes for you to wash are stacked on the kitchen counter.
  - c. The packages which must be taken to the post office are over there.  
The packages to be taken to the post office are over there.

1. He was the first guest who arrived at the picnic.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Here is the meat which should be put in the refrigerator.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. There is no more work that we need to do tonight.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The only ones who objected to the loud music at the party were the tenants in the apartment below.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. I have two important phone calls which I must make.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The sales manager dictated some letters which had to be typed right away.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. They will have to hire someone who can guide them through the jungle.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. The letters which need to be answered immediately are usually put in a special folder.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Here are the books which must be returned to the library.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. The best time when you can see him is in the morning.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. One of the best places where you can buy good fish is at Fisherman's Wharf.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. The only time that he can be found at home is in the evening.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. The worst place where you might build your new home is near the highway.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 7-10

### INFINITIVE PHRASES AS ALTERNATIVES FOR ADVERBIAL CLAUSES

Infinitive phrases often represent alternatives for adverbial clauses of purpose, condition, or cause.

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>He moved his chair to be closer to her.</b> (infinitive = so that he might be closer to her) <b>They will have to blast through the mountains (in order) to build the highway.</b> (In order to or so as to strengthens the meaning of purpose.)
<b>Condition</b>	<b>I would have given my life to have saved theirs.</b> (infinitive = if I could have saved theirs, or in order that I might have saved theirs—condition and purpose are often linked.) <b>She must have deeply resented his remarks, to judge by her reaction.</b> (infinitive = if we are to judge by her reaction)
<b>Cause</b>	<b>He rejoiced to see his old friends again.</b> (infinitive = because he saw his old friends again) <b>I was pleased to see him again.</b> (infinitive = because I saw him again)

As with adverbial clauses, adverbial infinitive phrases that are felt as loosely attached to the main verb (nonrestrictive phrases) may also appear at the beginning of a sentence or clause—**To judge by her reaction, she must have deeply resented his remarks.**

Change the adverbial clauses to infinitive phrases. Note which phrases may appear in more than one position. Use commas after the introductory infinitive phrases.

**EXAMPLE:** a. You must leave early in the morning if you want to get to work by nine o'clock.

You must leave early in the morning (in order) to get to work by nine o'clock.

or To get to work by nine o'clock, you must leave early in the morning.

b. The men must work overtime in order that the building may be finished on time.

The men must work overtime for the building to be finished on time.

or For the building to be finished on time, the men must work overtime.

1. He bought the most expensive theater tickets in order that he might be close to the stage.

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2. In order that he might save his wife some household drudgery, he bought her a washer and dryer.

3. I would be ashamed if I lived in such a dirty house.

4. He will do anything if he might have the chance to see her again.

5. We will have to mail this package today in order that it may get there on time.

6. He decided to go to school at night in order that he might study engineering.

7. So that he might make his lectures more interesting, the lecturer used colored slides.

8. You would be surprised if you learned how much it costs to live in that neighborhood.

9. We were pleased because we saw how well the work was done.

10. If our dance is to be successful, we must prepare everything carefully beforehand.

11. If you want to live in that house, you will have to pay a very high rent.

12. I shall be satisfied if I can get my money back out of this business deal.

13. He decided to learn to swim in order that he might overcome his fear of water.

---



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14. I would be delighted if I could meet your family.

---

## 7-11

### INFINITIVES PLUS PREPOSITIONAL PARTICLES

A prepositional particle may be inseparable from an infinitive.  
Infinitive phrase used as a *nominal*:

He expects **to be taken care of**. (The infinitive is passive only.)

Infinitive phrase used as an *adjectival*:

That is a good company **to work for**. (active infinitive)

That is a good company **to be associated with**. (passive infinitive)

Sometimes both the active and the passive infinitive are possible in an adjectival infinitive phrase.

There still remains much furniture **to dispose of**.

There still remains much furniture **to be disposed of**.

Some of these infinitive adjectivals may have alternate forms which include the relative pronoun—**That is a good company for which to work**, or **with which to be associated**.

### Infinitives Plus Particles Used as Nominals

Change the infinitive phrases from active to passive. Omit all subjects and objects.

**EXAMPLE:** a. She doesn't want (anyone to stare at her).

She doesn't want to be stared at.

---

b. (For anyone to take advantage of us) isn't pleasant.

To be taken advantage of isn't pleasant.

---

1. No one likes (anyone to laugh at him).

---

2. (For people to think well of him) has always been important to him.

---

3. It disturbs him (for anyone to impose on him).

---

4. They don't intend (for anyone to interfere with them).

---

5. (For people to look up to him) has been his dream for many years.

---

6. He doesn't like (anyone to look down on him).

---

7. She didn't expect (the teacher to call on her) in class.

---

### Infinitives Plus Particles Used as Adjectivals

Replace the words in parentheses by an infinitive plus a particle. Use an active or passive infinitive. (For some sentences both active and passive infinitives are possible.)

**EXAMPLE:** a. We still have a few more matters (which we must deal with).

We still have a few more matters to deal with, or to be dealt with.

---

b. That is a noble goal (which you should strive for).

That is a noble goal to strive for.

---

c. Right now he has many problems (which he must cope with).

Right now he has many problems to cope with.

---

1. The best person (whom you should talk to) is the factory superintendent.

---

2. He would like to have more tasks (which he can be responsible for).

---

3. Please give me a pan (which I can put the potatoes in).

---

4. At last he has found an occupation (which he can be enthusiastic about).

---

5. I have a few more matters (which I must attend to) before I can leave.

---

6. He needs more money (which he can live on).

---

7. She is not someone (whom anyone would be jealous of).

---

8. The girl doesn't have many friends (with whom she can play).

---

9. There is no one here (that you need to be afraid of).

---

10. There are still many things (that I must take care of).

---

## 7-12 INFINITIVE PHRASES AFTER TOO, ENOUGH

Infinitive phrases may follow adjectives or adverbs used with **too** or **enough**.

---

<b>too</b>	She's too intelligent to be deceived by such a lie. It's raining too hard for me to go out.
<b>enough</b>	The canoe is large enough to hold four people. We can't get to the theater quickly enough to see the play from the beginning.

---

Note that the word **enough** follows the adjective or adverb it modifies.

Combine the following sentences, using **too** or **enough** plus an infinitive phrase.

**EXAMPLE:** a. They're very poor. They can't buy a house.

They're too poor to buy a house.

---

b. The car is very large. It can seat six people comfortably.

The car is large enough to seat six people comfortably.

---

c. They're very far ahead. We can't catch up with them.

They're too far ahead for us to catch up with them. (Note that a **for** phrase is used if the "subject" of the infinitive is different from the subject of the sentence.)

---

1. She has very many students in the class. She can't give them individual attention.

---

2. He's very stingy. He won't buy his wife a good coat.

---

3. This piece of material is not very big. I can't make a dress out of it.

---

4. The roads are too icy. We can't drive on them.

---

6. Her father has been away a long time. The little girl can't remember him.
- 
6. We have plenty of food. We can serve all the extra guests.
- 
7. I don't have much carbon paper. I can't make five copies.
- 
8. He's worked very hard and long. He won't give up now.
- 
9. She changed very gradually. We didn't notice it right away.
- 
10. I have very much homework. I can't go to the movies with you.
- 
11. They can't work very quickly. They can't rescue the injured mountain climbers before dark.
- 
12. The professor spoke very slowly. The foreign students understood him.
- 

## 7-13

### TO SUBSTITUTION

To substitution occurs after many words that are normally followed by infinitives. Such substitution is used to avoid repetition of a part of the sentence.

To substitution may occur after:

1. *modal auxiliaries*—She doesn't live in the country, but she used to (live in the country).
2. *verbs taking infinitive objects*—He expects to fail his course and he deserves to (fail his course).
3. *predicate adjectives*—He really should leave early, but he's not likely to (leave early).

The negative of the **to** substitute is **not to**.

The guests got up to leave, but their hostess begged them **not to** (leave).

The substitute for infinitives preceded by **how** is **how to**.

I would like to help him but I don't know **how to** (help him).

The **to** substitute is sometimes omitted in informal usage.

His wife asked him to mail the letter, but he forgot (to).

I would like to help him but I don't know how (to).

Use **to**, **not to**, **how to** or **nothing**. Observe formal usage.

1. He hasn't been doing his homework when he ought \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He wanted to ask for another piece of pie but he felt ashamed \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I thought I would be required to pay a late registration fee, but I don't need \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Anyone who wants \_\_\_\_\_ may leave now.
5. Whenever I can help you, I will be pleased \_\_\_\_\_.
6. They go to the theater whenever they can \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Don't do that! I've told you before not \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I haven't filed that report, but I really must \_\_\_\_\_.
9. You must take advantage of that offer. It would be foolish not \_\_\_\_\_.
10. I'll be glad to do the work if you show me how \_\_\_\_\_.
11. We haven't registered yet, but we intend \_\_\_\_\_.
12. You can go there if you would like \_\_\_\_\_, but I think it is advisable not \_\_\_\_\_.
13. I'll face that problem when I have \_\_\_\_\_.

## 7-14

### REVIEW OF INFINITIVE PHRASES

Replace the **this** in one sentence with an *infinitive phrase* made from the *other sentence*. (Where possible, use anticipatory *it* also.)

#### Subject

1. Come home at once.

*This is necessary.*

---

2. He wrote me a nasty letter.

*This was insulting.*

---

3. He came here at a busy time.

*This is inconsiderate of him.*

---

4. The African nations can become industrialized.

*This requires a great deal of work on their part.*

---



---

**Object of Verb**

5. The man was to halt at once.  
The guard commanded *this*.
- 

6. She sews very well.  
Her mother taught her *this*.
- 

7. Have lunch with me.  
I would like *this*.
- 

**Subjective Complement**

8. The present fad is *this*.  
The girls are wearing very short skirts.
- 

9. The plan that Woodrow Wilson suggested was *this*.  
A League of Nations should be set up to help prevent future wars.
- 
- 

**Infinitive Phrases****Instead of Adjective Clauses**

Change the italicized adjective clauses into infinitive phrases.

10. Here are some papers *which you ought to examine*.
- 

11. There are many things *which must be done* before we can leave.
- 

12. Nighttime is the time *when we can relax and watch television*.
- 

13. He is the man *whom you should consult on this matter*.
-

### infinitive Phrases Instead of Adverbial Clauses

Change the italicized adverbial clauses into infinitive phrases.

14. I would be ashamed *if I received such low grades.*

---

15. We are happy *that we can see you again.*

---

16. We have enough money *so that we can take a long vacation.*

---

17. He held up the picture *so that everyone could see it.*

---

## 7-15

### USING INFINITIVE PHRASES FOR SUMMARIZING

Study the following paragraphs carefully. Underline the parts of each paragraph that are required for completing the summary sentence. Use your own words as much as possible. (Do not write more than one sentence for each paragraph.)

It is unlikely that Joey's calamity could befall a child in any time and culture but our own. He suffered no physical deprivation; he starved for human contact. Just to be taken care of is not enough for relating. It is a necessary but not a sufficient condition. At the extreme where utter scarcity reigns, the forming of relationships is certainly hampered. But our society of mechanized plenty often makes for equal difficulties in a child's learning to relate. Where parents can provide the simple creature-comforts for their children only at the cost of significant effort, it is likely that they will feel pleasure in being able to provide for them; it is this, the parent's pleasure, that gives children a sense of personal worth and sets the process of relating in motion. But if comfort is so readily available that the parents feel no particular pleasure in winning it for their children, then the children cannot develop the feeling of being worthwhile around the satisfaction of their basic needs. Of course parents and children can and do develop relationships around other situations. But matters are then no longer so simple and direct. The child must be on the receiving end of care and concern given with pleasure and without the exaction of return if he is to feel loved and worthy of respect and consideration. This feeling gives him the ability to trust; he can entrust his well-being to persons to whom he is so important. Out of such trust the child learns to form close and stable relationships.

Bruno Bettelheim, "Joey - A 'Mechanical Boy' ", *Scientific American*, March 1959.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>From "Joey: 'A Mechanical Boy'", Copyright © March 1959 by Scientific American, Inc. All rights reserved.

Summary sentence—In order for the child \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, his parents must \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are a really poor speller, the first step is to find out what method of learning a new word works best for you. Some people do best by spelling a word out loud a number of times; others by writing it down repeatedly; and still others by tracing it with a pencil after it has been correctly written. Find out whether your eyes, your ears, or your muscles help you most in this particular job. As you try each method, be sure you give your full attention to what you are doing. It is a pure waste of time to use any of them while you are thinking about something else. Five minutes of *real* work on spelling is worth much more than an hour of semiconscious droning or purely mechanical copying.

L. M. Myers, *Guide to American English*<sup>2</sup>

Summary sentence—One way to improve one's spelling is to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

another way is to \_\_\_\_\_

and a third way is to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>2</sup>L. M. Myers, *Guide to American English*, 3rd ed., © 1963 by Prentice-Hall, Inc. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.

