

## 21.1

# Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases (Infinitive Phrases) • Practice 1

**Infinitive Phrases** An infinitive phrase is an infinitive with modifiers, complements, or a subject, all acting together as a single part of speech. Notice that the infinitives in the first two chart examples do not include the word *to*. When an infinitive or infinitive phrase is used as the direct object of certain verbs, *to* is often omitted.

INFINITIVE PHRASES
Please help <u>set the table</u> .
I watched Pam <u>prepare the salad</u> .
<u>To plan carefully</u> is a good beginning.
That job is hard <u>to do without help</u> .

**Exercise 1** **Recognizing Infinitive Phrases.** Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence below. Then write the part of speech it is used as on the line to the right.

**EXAMPLE:** Dana's desire to help people led to her career in medicine. adjective

- Elise is a good person to ask for directions. ADJ.
- Did you get the message to call home? ADJ.
- The new law requires infants to ride in special seats. NOM. (D.O.)
- The whole family was eager to see the new car. ADV.
- Pam wants to invite her to the party. NOM. (DO)
- The carpenters were unable to finish the job in time. ADV.
- The troops found the fort impossible to defend against the enemy. ADV.
- Do you need a volunteer to help with refreshments? ADV.
- Who is the candidate to vote for? SKIP
- I helped Phil to rake the yard. ADV.

**Exercise 2** **More Work with Infinitive Phrases.** Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence. On the line at the right, write the infinitive itself. If *to* has been omitted, add it in parentheses.

**EXAMPLE:** Let me help you with that. (to) help

- We saw the Olympic torch bearer pass by. NOM (DO)
- The teacher offered to give me extra help. NOM. (DO)
- I heard him sing in person at the coliseum. ADV. NOM. (DO)
- We watched the sun rise over the ocean. NOM. (D.O)
- The owner allows visitors to tour the house during the week. NOM. (DO)
- We wouldn't dare ask for another piece of pie. ASK. NOM. (DO)
- No one can make Linda change her mind. NOM (D.O)
- I warned you to read the directions carefully. NOM. (D.O.)
- Alice arranged for Clare to visit for the weekend. NOM (D.P.)
- Let's find a good place for dinner. NOM. (DO)

# 21.1 Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases (Infinitive Phrases) • Practice 2

**Exercise 1 Identifying Infinitive Phrases.** Underline the infinitive phrase or infinitive phrases in each sentence. Label each one as a *subject*, *direct object*, *predicate nominative*, *object of a preposition*, *adjective*, or *adverb*.

**EXAMPLE:** To become an astronaut requires special training. subject

(1) To carry out their missions, astronauts undergo years of preparation. (2) At first only experienced pilots were able to become astronauts. (3) They needed to have a degree in engineering, physical science, or mathematics. (4) Since 1965 "mission specialists" have been recruited to perform scientific experiments. (5) They also needed to complete flight training. (6) To prepare for missions, astronauts study subjects ranging from rocket engines to geology. (7) Astronauts use full-size spacecraft models and simulators (devices that reproduce conditions of space flight) to train for missions. (8) Astronauts have no choice but to work hard. (9) We admire their ability to succeed at difficult tasks. (10) They make us feel proud of their accomplishments.

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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <u>ADV.</u>        | 6. <u>ADV.</u>         |
| 2. <u>ADV.</u>        | 7. <u>ADV.</u>         |
| 3. <u>NOM (D.O.)</u>  | 8. <u>NOM (D.O.)</u>   |
| 4. <u>ADV.</u>        | 9. <u>ADJ.</u>         |
| 5. <u>NOM. (D.O.)</u> | 10. <u>NOM. (D.O.)</u> |

**Writing Application Writing Sentences with Infinitive Phrases.** Use the following instructions to write ten sentences with infinitive phrases. Then underline the infinitive phrase in each.

**EXAMPLE:** Use *to help* as a direct object. He wanted to help the lost child.

- Use *to change* as a predicate nominative.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use *to build* as an adjective.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use *to paint* as a subject.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use *to refuse* as an adjective.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use *to leap* as a direct object.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use *to know* as a predicate nominative.  
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- Use *to send* as an adjective.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use *to spoil* as a subject.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use *to meet* as a direct object.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use *to advise* as a subject.  
\_\_\_\_\_