

## 20.1

# Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases (Infinitives, Prepositional Phrase or Infinitive?) • Practice 1

**Infinitives** An *infinitive* is a form of a verb that generally appears with the word *to* and acts as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

INFINITIVES
<i>Subject:</i> To forgive takes understanding and generosity. <i>Direct Object:</i> Warren offered to help. <i>Predicate Nominative:</i> The team's desire was to win. <i>Object of a Preposition:</i> We had no choice but to follow. <i>Appositive:</i> Nina has one great desire, to travel.  <i>Adjective:</i> I am looking for something to read.  <i>Adverb:</i> This tool is easy to use.

**Prepositional Phrase or Infinitive?** A prepositional phrase always ends with a noun or pronoun. An infinitive always ends with a verb.

Prepositional Phrase	Infinitive
We went to Mexico for vacation.	Is this a good place to stand?

**Exercise 1** Identifying Infinitives. Underline the infinitive in each sentence. Then tell whether it is being used as a *noun*, an *adjective*, or an *adverb*.

EXAMPLE: From here, the speaker is hard to hear. adverb

- Mrs. Link's advice was hard to accept. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tom's willingness to work impressed his employer. \_\_\_\_\_
- Is the Chinese language difficult to learn? \_\_\_\_\_
- That plan is not likely to succeed. \_\_\_\_\_
- New foods are often interesting to try. \_\_\_\_\_
- Daedalus's great dream was to fly. \_\_\_\_\_
- Hockey is an exciting sport to watch. \_\_\_\_\_
- Hal's desire to rule has become an obsession. \_\_\_\_\_
- In spite of the noise and confusion, we tried to listen. \_\_\_\_\_
- The band finally began to play. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2** Distinguishing Between Prepositional Phrases and Infinitives. Write *PP* (prepositional phrase) or *INF* (infinitive) to describe each underlined group of words.

EXAMPLE: Dad went to the market. PP

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Is this the road to take? _____ | 6. Pam is willing to learn. _____    |
| 2. Is this the road to town? _____ | 7. Who is the one to select? _____   |
| 3. Fran walks to school. _____     | 8. Hand this to Kerry. _____         |
| 4. Mom walks to exercise. _____    | 9. This is important to me. _____    |
| 5. Just listen to this. _____      | 10. This is important to know. _____ |