

THE INFINITIVE PHRASE

The infinitive phrase begins with the word *to*. The phrase consists of *to*, the infinitive (always a verb), its complements, and its modifiers.

Ex. Tim wants *to be a lawyer*. (The infinitive phrase is the object of *wants*.)

To win at chess requires much concentration. (The infinitive phrase is the subject.)

Mary was glad *to be invited to the party*. (The infinitive phrase modifies the adjective *glad*.)

Identifying Infinitive Phrases. Underline the infinitive phrase in each of the following sentences.

Example: Joe intends to work hard.

1. To be objective in my decision is hard.
2. Does Joan have enough change to make a phone call?
3. Always try to proofread your paper before you turn it in.
4. Ellen is able to swim six lengths of the pool.
5. The Harlow twins came to play with my little brother.
6. Would you like to warn me if anyone comes?
7. I was happy to give you a ride home.
8. To move to a larger house would be unwise for us now.
9. Fred was frightened to be alone in the old house.
10. Megan is trying to practice the piano an hour a day.
11. To be a doctor is Ann's ambition.
12. To win the presidency is Senator Brown's ambition.
13. Did you have time to feed the kitten?
14. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor plan to go to Maine this summer.
15. The mayor decided to call a press conference.
16. Dick always tries to do his best.
17. Sarah tried to paint the ceiling of her room.
18. The lecturer was asked to speak for half an hour.
19. Our plan is to go to Tennessee in October.
20. To play tennis every day is Jim's ambition for the summer.