



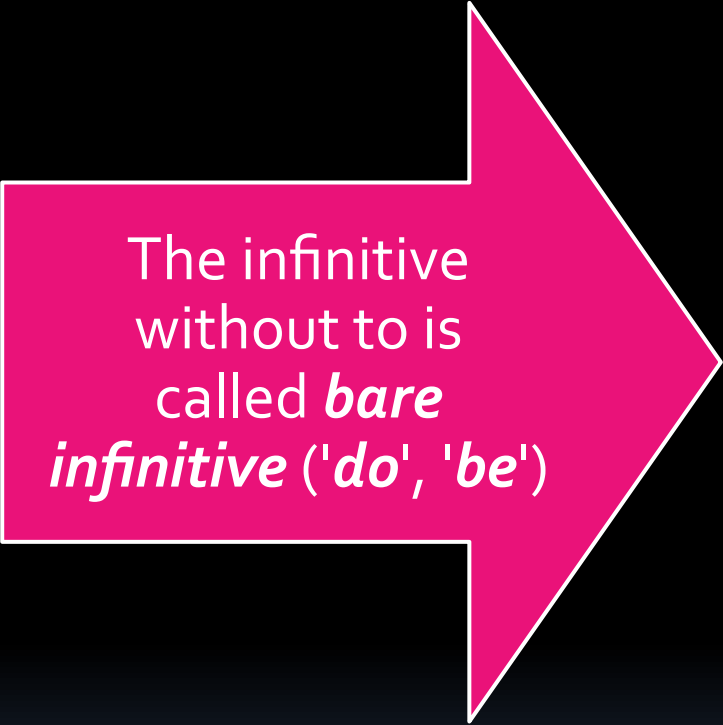
# INFINITIVES

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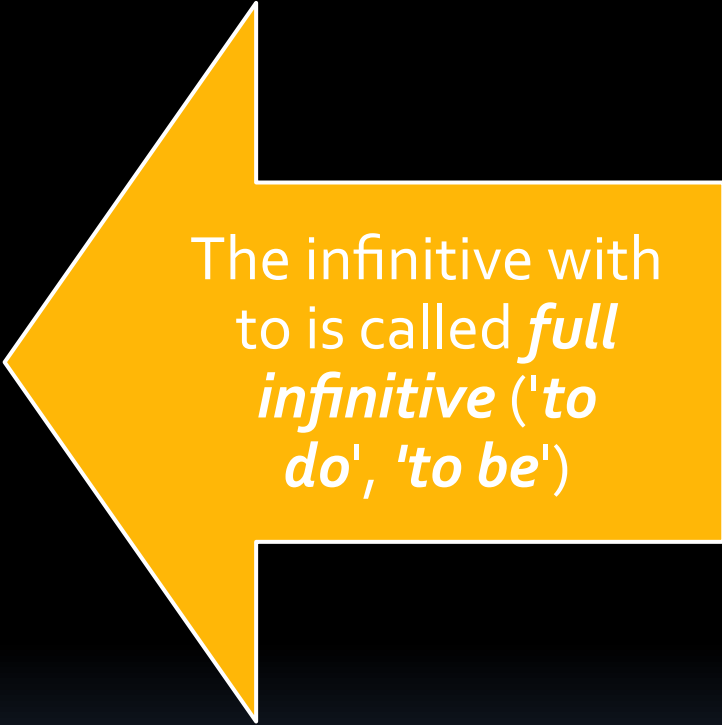
## What is the infinitive?

The infinitive of a verb is its basic form with or without the particle *to*:

Examples:  
**'do'** or **'to do'**  
**'be'** or **'to be'**



The infinitive without to is called *bare infinitive* ('do', 'be')



The infinitive with to is called *full infinitive* ('to do', 'to be')

# Functions of the bare

1. The bare infinitive is used as the main verb after the dummy auxiliary verb *do*, or most modal auxiliary verbs (such as *will*, *can*, or *should*..)

Examples:

I do ***know*** him

I do ***like*** you.

I can ***do*** it .

2. Several common verbs of perception, including *see*, *watch*, *hear*, *feel*, and *sense* take a direct object and a bare infinitive.

Examples:

I saw it ***happen***

I watched it ***happen***

3. The bare infinitive is also used with several common verbs of permission or causation, including *make*, *bid*, *let*, and *have*.

Example:

I made/bade/let/had him ***do*** it.

(However, *make* takes a to-infinitive in the passive voice.

I was made **to do** it.

4. The bare infinitive is also used after *had better*.

Example:  
You had better *leave* now



5. The verb *help* is followed by the bare infinitive.

Example:  
He helped them *do* it. ("He helped them *to do*" it is also possible)



6. With the word *why*.

Example:  
Why *say* it?

# Functions of the full infinitive

The full infinitive can function as a noun phrase. In this case it is used as follows.

1. as an object.

Examples:

I intended *to marry* her.

He wanted *to know* the whole truth.

2. as a subject.

Examples:

*To err* is human, *to forgive* is divine.

### 3. It can also be used like an adjective or adverb.

Examples:

This is the game **to watch**. (**to watch** functions as an adjective, modifying *the noun game*)

This is the problem **to think about**. (**to think about** functions as an adjective modifying the noun 'the problem')

He went to his friend's house **to study**. (**to study** functions as an adverb answering the question why he went to his friend's house)

He is ready **to go**. (**to go** functions as an adverb, modifying the adjective 'ready'.)

### 4. It is used to mean "in order to" to express purpose

Examples:

You need to exercise regularly **to lose** weight. (...*in order to lose* weight)

He works hard **to earn** a lot of money. (...*in order to earn* a lot of money)

There are four types of infinitive, each of which has an active and passive form:

Active	Passive	
Simple infinitive	(to) write	(to) be written
Continuous infinitive	(to) be writing	(to) be being written
Perfect infinitive	(to) have written	(to) have been written
Perfect continuous infinitive	(to) have been writing	(to) have been being written



# Simple infinitive

The **simple infinitive** refers to the same time as that of the preceding verb:

*I was glad **to see** her.*

*He must **be** very happy.*

*I ll **arrange** a meeting with the manager.*

*My son's football coach is said **to be** very strict.*

# Continuous infinitive

The **continuous infinitive** refers to the same time as that of the preceding verb and expresses an action in progress or happening over a period of time:

*I'm glad **to be sitting** here.*

*You must **be joking**.*

*This time next week, I'll **be lying** on the beach in Croatia.*

*Vincent was reported **to be staying** in Paris at that time.*

# Perfect infinitive

The **perfect infinitive** refers to a time before that of the preceding verb:

*I'm glad **to have studied** at that school.*

*They must **have forgotten** about the deadline.*

*By next week, they'll **have finished** painting the rooms.*

*Lucy was assumed **to have left** the day before.*

# Perfect continuous infinitive

The **perfect continuous infinitive** refers to a time before that of the preceding verb and expresses an action in progress or happening over a period of time:

*I'm glad **to have been living** in Barcelona for the last ten years.*

*He must **have been waiting** for ages.*

*Soon, he'll **have been running** for four hours.*

*The organisers were thought **to have been preparing** for days.*

# Passive infinitives

Passive forms are also possible:

*Your composition has to be typed.* (passive simple infinitive)

*The spy's phone was believed to be being tapped.* (passive continuous infinitive, rarely used)

*This sonnet must have been written by Shakespeare.* (passive perfect infinitive)

*The picture is believed to have been being painted for years.* (passive perfect continuous infinitive, rarely used)

# Modal verbs

All of the infinitive forms are used with modal verbs in order to express certain meanings of modal verbs.

For example:

He can write reports.

He must be writing a report now.

He should have written a report yesterday.

This report might have been written by one of our freelance workers.