

Lesson 217

Parts of the Sentence - Verbals - Noun Infinitives

An *infinitive* is a **verbal** that is *to* plus a *verb form*. It can be used as a **noun**.

Examples:

to be, to see, to be seen, to be eaten

The *noun infinitive* can be a **subject**, a **direct object**, a **predicate nominative**, an **appositive**, or an **object of a preposition**.

Examples:

To eat is fun. (subject)

I like **to eat**. (direct object)

A fun thing is **to eat**. (predicate nominative)

My hope, **to travel**, never happened. (appositive)

I want nothing but **to save**. (object of preposition)

Noun infinitives can have with them **direct objects**, **predicate nominatives**, **predicate adjectives**, or modifiers to form what is called an *infinitive phrase*.

Example:

To eat solid foods is hard for babies.

S

Adj

DO

To eat solid foods is hard for babies. (the phrase is the subject)

S

To eat is the noun infinitive used as the subject of the verb *is*. It has its own direct object **foods** with the adjective **solid**, which together make up the *infinitive phrase*.

Instructions: Find the *noun infinitive phrases* in the following sentences and tell if they are used as a **subject**, a **direct object**, a **predicate nominative**, an **appositive**, or an **object of a preposition**.

1. We need to take them by surprise.

2. To restore old cars is expensive.

3. My wish, to visit the Grand Canyon, has happened.

4. The girl wanted nothing except to succeed in the class.

5. The Jazz's hope is to win the championship.