

Lesson 218

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

Noun infinitives may be compound.

Example:

I want *to eat* and *to sleep*.

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 compound *noun infinitives* and *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. Their war aims, to kill the people and to destroy the nation, were not accomplished.

2. They wanted to score and to win the game.

3. The woman's hobby was to camp and to hike.

4. I only desired one thing, to forgive you and to forget our differences.

5. To see and to hear are highly developed senses in many animals.