

## Lesson 219

### 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. Sometimes the second *to* is left off.

Examples:

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

I want *to eat* and *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. Your job will be to count the people and pass out the tickets.

2. To talk and visit in class can get you into trouble.

3. To eat, drink, and make merry is not a good life style.

4. Small children like to play in sand piles and eat goodies.

5. Her wish, to travel and see the world, never happened.