

## Lesson 220

### 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 *noun infinitives* and 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. Everyone wants to enjoy life.
2. She likes to be admired.
3. Two bad habits are to smoke cigarettes and to drink alcohol.
4. To stop the car suddenly can be dangerous.
5. To cheat is a sign of weakness.