

### 3. Infinitives

A verbal is a word formed from a verb but functioning as a different part of speech.

An **infinitive** is a verbal formed by placing **to** in front of the simple present form of a verb.

Examples:

**to swim**      **to think**      **to read**      **to be**      **to cut**      **to turn**

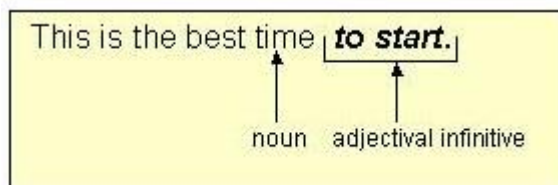
Infinitives may function as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns.

#### A. Adjectival infinitives

Just like a single-word adjective, an infinitive used as an adjective always describes a noun.

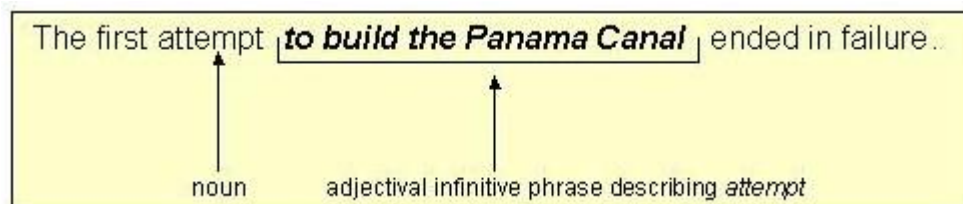
An adjectival infinitive always **follows** the noun it describes.

EXAMPLE



Like gerunds and participles, infinitives may incorporate other words as part of their phrase.

EXAMPLE

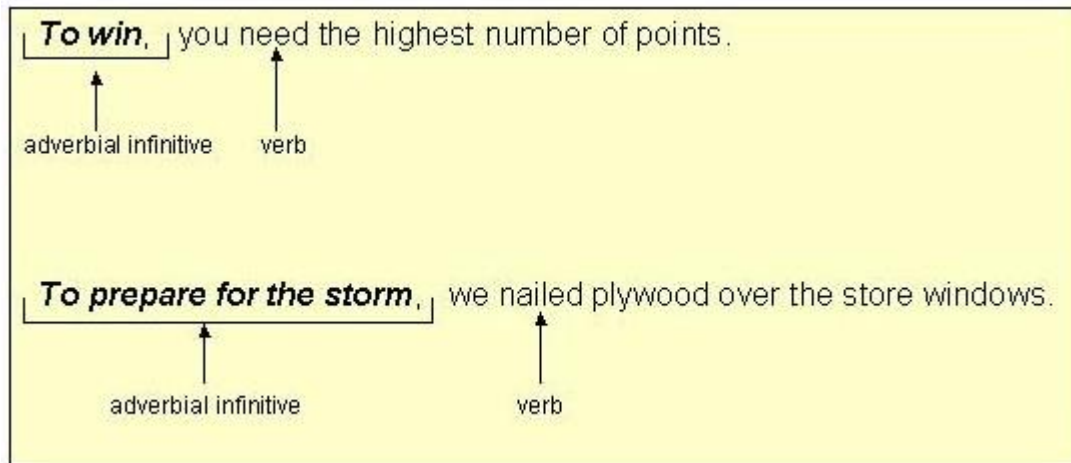


## B. Adverbial infinitives

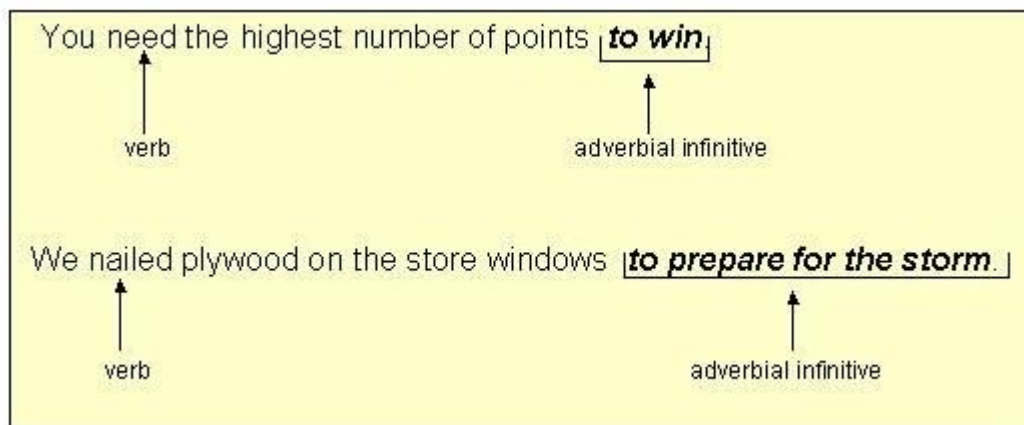
Just like a single-word adverb, an infinitive used as an adverb always describes a verb.

An adverbial infinitive usually occurs at the beginning or at the end of a sentence and does not need to be near the verb it describes.

EXAMPLE: Adverbial infinitive at sentence beginning



EXAMPLE: Adverbial infinitive at sentence end



**HINT:** You can always identify an adverbial infinitive by inserting the test words *in order* in front of

infinitive. If the words *in order* make sense, the infinitive is adverbial.

Boomshakalacka!!!!



*(In order)* to win, you need the highest number of points.

↑  
adverbial infinitive

We nailed plywood to the store windows *(in order)* to prepare for the storm.

↑  
adverbial infinitive phrase

### PUNCTUATION NOTE:

1. Use a comma after the adverbial infinitive when it starts a sentence.
2. Do not separate the adverbial infinitive from the rest of the sentence if the infinitive ends the sentence.

### C. Nominal infinitives

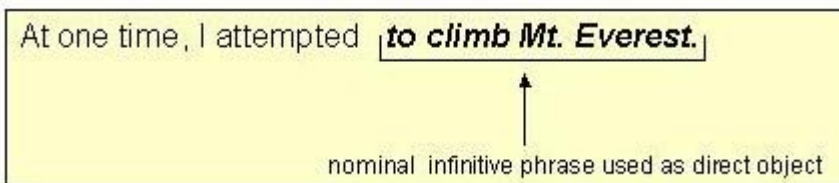
Like a single-word noun, a nominal infinitive may function as a

#### SUBJECT

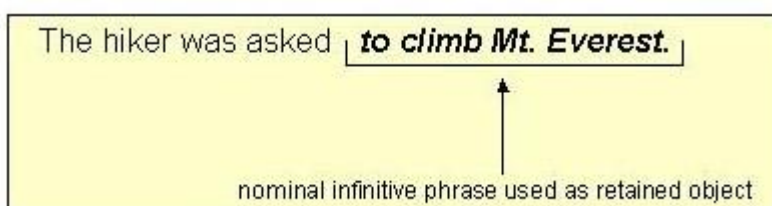
To climb Mt. Everest was my greatest ambition.

↑  
nominal infinitive phrase used as subject

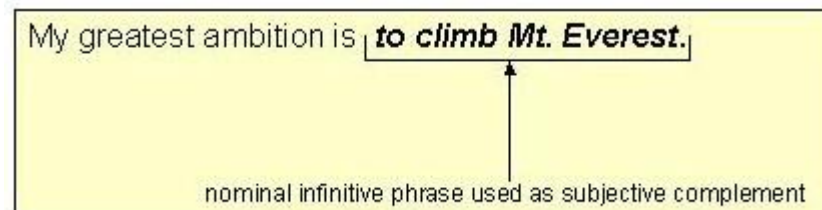
## DIRECT OBJECT



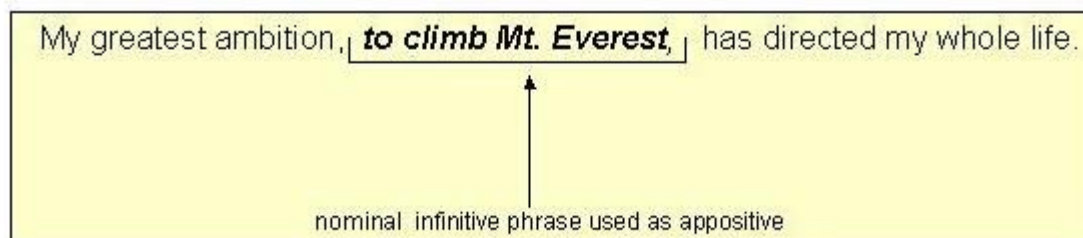
## RETAINED OBJECT



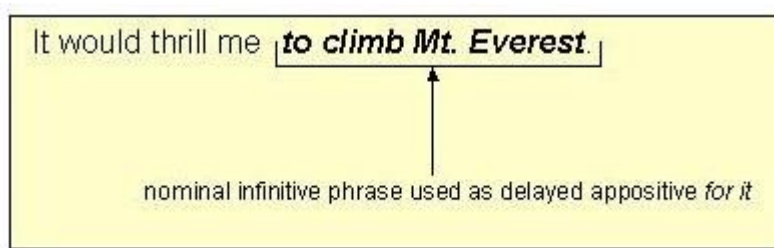
## SUBJECTIVE COMPLEMENT



## APPOSITIVE



## DELAYED APPOSITIVE



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