

Verb + Infinitives and Uses of the Infinitive

In English, an **infinitive** is the base form of a verb, often preceded by the word “to,” as in “to eat” or “to run.” Infinitives can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs in sentences.

Uses of the Infinitive

1. **As the subject of a sentence:**
 - To travel is my passion.
2. **As the object of a verb:**
 - She hopes to visit Italy next year.
3. **To express purpose:**
 - He studies hard to achieve his goals.
4. **After adjectives:**
 - It's important to stay hydrated.

Verbs Commonly Followed by Infinitives

Certain verbs are typically followed by an infinitive. Here are some examples:

- **Verbs of thinking and feeling:**
 - decide, expect, hope, intend, plan, want
 - They decided to start* a business together.*
- **Verbs of saying:**
 - agree, promise, refuse
 - She promised to help* with the project.*
- **Other common verbs:**
 - afford, arrange, attempt, fail, manage, tend, learn
 - He managed to finish* the work on time.*

Examples

- I hope to see* you soon.*
- They plan to attend* the meeting.*
- She refused to answer* the question.*

Note: Some verbs can be followed by either an infinitive or a gerund (verb + -ing), sometimes with a change in meaning. For example:

- I stopped to smoke. (I paused an activity in order to have a cigarette.)
- I stopped smoking. (I quit the habit of smoking.)