

VERBALS**Functions and Uses of Infinitives**

An infinitive is the word *to* combined with the simple, or stem, form of a verb, such as *to sing* or *to read*. An infinitive is rarely used as a verb; instead it is used in a sentence as a noun, adjective, or adverb. When it is used as a noun it functions as a subject, subject complement or direct object.

Example: **We all wanted to play.**

In the example *to play* is the infinitive. It is functioning as a direct object.

Remember that an infinitive includes a verb and should not be confused with a prepositional phrase starting with the preposition *to*, such as *to the street*.

Circle the infinitives in the sentences below. Write the infinitive's function in the sentence in the blank under the sentence.

1. His goal was to succeed.

2. To refuse was not an option, so we agreed with their demands.

3. My brother likes to sing.

4. The team must score to win.

5. The counselor has the ability to help.

6. Her dog just wanted to play.

7. To laugh seemed rude, but the story was funny.

8. For the dishes tonight, your job is to dry.

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1. His goal was to succeed.

subject complement

2. To refuse was not an option, so we agreed with their demands.

subject

3. My brother likes to sing.

direct object

4. The team must score to win.

adverb

5. The counselor has the ability to help.

adjective

6. Her dog just wanted to play.

direct object

7. To laugh seemed rude, but the story was funny.

subject

8. For the dishes tonight, your job is to dry.

subject complement