

# Uses of the infinitive

The infinitive can be used as a noun. As a noun it can be the subject or object of the verb.

To find fault is easy. (Here the infinitive 'to find' is the subject of the verb is.)

To err is human. (Here the infinitive 'to err' is the subject of the verb is.)

He likes to play cards. (Here the infinitive 'to play' serves as the object of the verb likes.)

I don't want to go. (Here the infinitive 'to go' serves as the object of the verb want.)

The infinitive can also be the complement of a verb.

Her greatest pleasure is to sing. (Here the infinitive 'to sing' is the complement of the verb is.)

The infinitive can also be the object of a preposition.

The speaker is about to begin. (Here the infinitive 'to begin' is the object of the preposition about.)

The infinitive can also be used to qualify a verb.

He called to see my brother.

We eat to live.

I came to bury Caesar.

The infinitive can be used to qualify an adjective.

Figs are good to eat.

The boys are anxious to learn.

He is too ill to do any work.

The infinitive can be used to qualify a noun.

This is not the time to play.

Here is a house to let.

The infinitive can be used to qualify a sentence.

To tell the truth, I don't have any interest in politics.