**Introduction to Infinitives**

* An infinitive is the part of a verb which is unaffected by person or number. In English, this part of a verb is easily recognized as it is preceded by “to” (e.g., “to call”).
* When you look up a Latin verb in a Latin–English dictionary, you will see four entries (principal parts) for most verbs. The second entry—usually abbreviated "-are," "-ere," or "-ire"—is the infinitive.

Latin infinitives

* do not have person
* are translated *to*\_\_\_\_\_\_
* are found in the present Active as the second principal part: portare (to carry), regere (to rule)

**Present Active Infinitive**

In a dictionary, the present Active infinitive form of a verb is shown as the second principal part, and we have come across it several times already.

*voco,* ***vocare****, vocavi, vocatus, -a, -um* = to call

Normally the ending for first conjugation verbs is “-are”; second conjugation verbs “–ere”; third conjugation verbs “-ere”; and fourth conjugation verbs “-ire.”

More specifically, it's the present Active infinitive, which is translated into English as "to" plus whatever the verb means.

Infinitive Endings for Conjugation Identification:

1st Conjugation: -are

2nd Conjugation: -ere

3rd Conjugation: -ere

4th Conjugation: -ire

**Complementary Infinitive**

**A complementary infinitive is** an infinitive used to complete an action of the sentence.

Latin examples:

* *Libros****legere****amo.* I love **to read** books.