



Unit 3 Lesson 1: Let's Play with Infinitives

Crib Sheet

Ensure you play the presentation as a slide show.

Slide 1: Introduce pupils to the lesson objective. We will learn what an infinitive is and how infinitives are linked in many languages.

Slide 2: Quick lesson starter: Pupils look at the words on the board. Pupils discuss what type of words they are, what similarities or clues can they see? All the words are verbs, and they are all infinitives from around the world.

Slide 3: Read the quotation to the class. "To die, to sleep – to sleep, perchance to dream – ay, there's the rub, for in this sleep of death what dreams may come..."

Give pupils a minute to discuss their thoughts. Directed questioning.

- Who wrote this? Shakespeare
- Which play is it from? Hamlet
- Where are the infinitives? To die, to sleep, to dream
- Why are infinitives used here? To show possibility - the meaning of this extract is shaped by the language chosen (infinitives)

Slide 4: Explain what an infinitive is: An infinitive is the form of verb you find in the dictionary. In English, the infinitive always begins with "to".

Refer to the examples on the slide.

Pupils think of five of their own infinitives to consolidate understanding. Pupil's individual response

Slide 5: Can you create an infinitive poem?

You have a poem in German on the left (Weihnachten) and the same poem in Dutch on the right (Kerstmis).

Ask the pupils to read the poems to themselves. You can read them to the class if you feel confident with pronunciation. Pupils then answer the following questions individually or in pairs.

Can you spot the infinitive rule in these languages? All infinitives in the two poems end in "-en"

What language do you think the second poem is written in? Dutch. How did they know? Discuss.

What could the poem be about? Christmas. How could they tell? Discuss.

Can you try translating it? Did you use cognates, linguistic guesses, previous knowledge?

To eat, to drink, to sing, to play,

To wish, to hope, to love, to stay.



What links can you spot between the three languages? There are many links – elicit from the class.

Slide 6: Provides pupils with the answers.

Slide 7: Pupil task to write their own poem only using infinitives. They can write in any language they choose. They can use any resources they like to help them – translators, dictionaries. We are not looking for perfect, accuracy. Allow them to play with language.

Pupils could write about a dream holiday, the first day out with friends after lockdown or a birthday. Own ideas are encouraged.

Slide 8: Choose three pupils (more or less depending on time) to read their poem to the class. Paired discussion of the questions - What language have you chosen to write in and why? Ask pupils if they can spot the infinitive rule in their chosen language? Individual pupil response.

Perhaps they all have the same ending (for example, -en, -ar, -ir, -re, -er) or the same prefix.

Slide 9: Plenary activity to look at verbs and infinitives in Dutch and English. Hand out the pupil worksheet from the UK Linguistics Olympiad. Pupils need to think about the rules on infinitives, and plural nouns.

Slide 10: Answers to Double Dutch Problem. Ask pupils how they came to their answers. What patterns did they spot?

- 1 wonen
- 2 haren
- 3 een oor
- 4 uren
- 5 een adres
- 6 ik gom
- 7 een raaf
- 8 stappen