



Ιπποπόταμος
WoLLoW the HiPPo

The World of Languages and Languages of the World

Today, let's play with infinitives.

What do these words have in common?

jouer

eten

cantar

bailar

to run

笑う (Warau)

dançar

لتناول الطعام

trinken

å le

пить (pit')

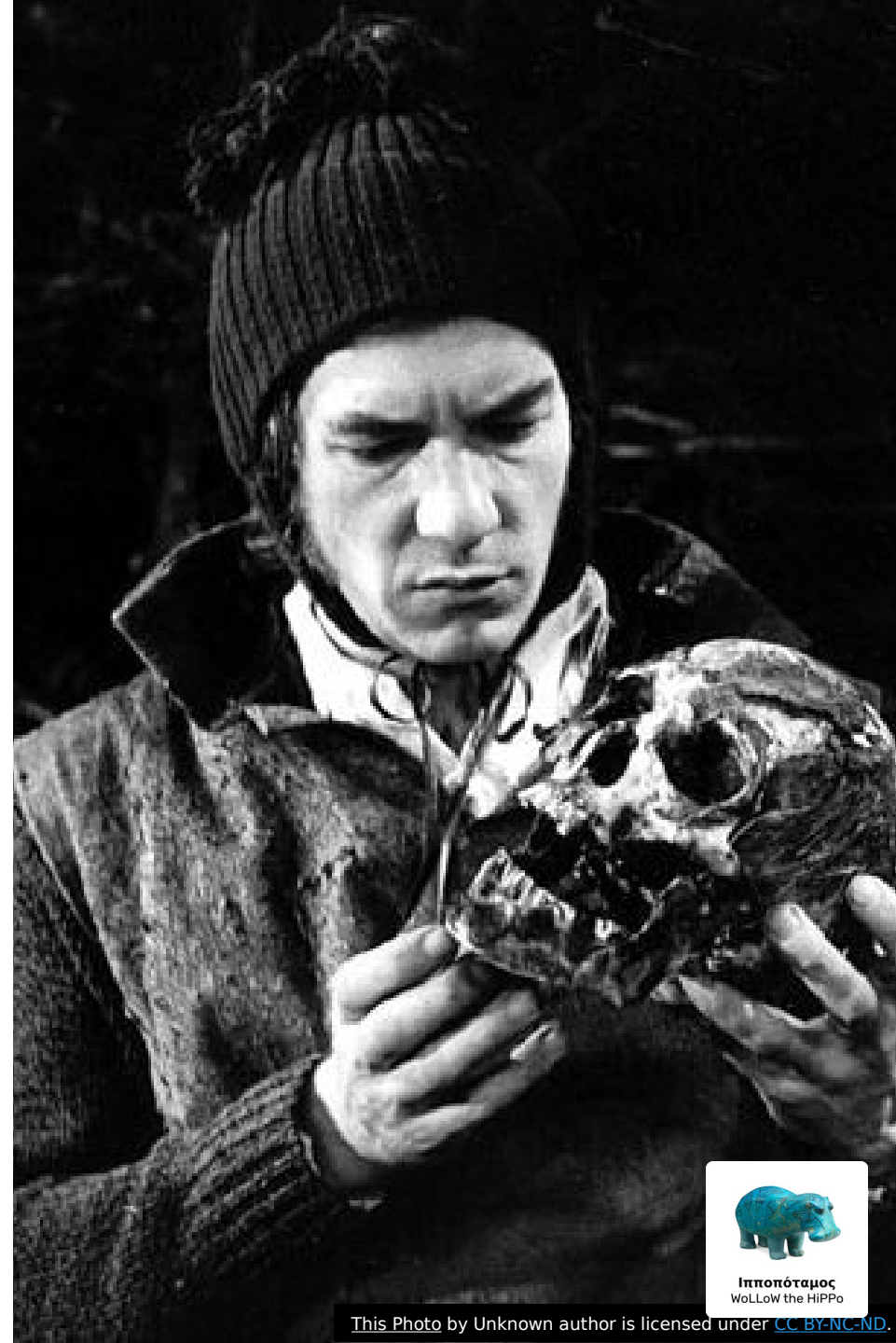
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They are all verbs and they are all infinitives.



Infinitives

- **“To die, to sleep – to sleep, perchance to dream – ay, there’s the rub, for in this sleep of death what dreams may come...”**
- Who wrote this?
- Which play is it from?
- Where are the infinitives?
- Why are infinitives used here?



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What is an infinitive?

An infinitive is the form of verb you find in the dictionary.
In English, the infinitive always begins with "to".



to eat



to sleep



to be



to run



to love

Can you think of five more infinitives?



Why we use infinitives

1. It is used in French as a **polite imperative**:

*'ne pas **marcher** sur la pelouse'* (don't walk on the lawn)

And most famously, in the epitaph for the Spartans at Thermopylae:

ὦ ξεῖν', ἀγγέλλειν Λακεδαιμονίοις ὅτι τῇδε
κείμεθα τοῖς κείνων ῥήμασι πειθόμενοι.

"o stranger, go **tell** the Spartans that here we lie
in obedience to their orders."

2. To show doubt or probability "to be or not to be".



Can you create an infinitive poem?

Here's mine. It's in German and....

Poetry

Weihnachten

Essen, trinken, singen, spielen,
Wünschen, hoffen, lieben, bleiben.

Kerstmis

Eten, drinken, zingen,
spelen,

Wensen, hopen,
leefhebber, bleijven.

Can you spot the infinitive rule in these languages?

What language do you think the second poem is written in?

What could the poem be about?

Can you try translating it?

What links can you spot between the languages?



Infinitive poems



Weihnachten

Essen, trinken, singen, spielen,
Wünschen, hoffen, lieben,
bleiben.

Kerstmis

Eten, drinken,
zingen, spelen,
Wensen, hopen,
liefhebben, bleijven.

Christmas

To eat, to drink, to sing, to
play,
To wish, to hope, to love, to
stay.

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

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

What could the poem be about? **Christmas. How could you tell?**

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

What links can you spot between the three languages? **There are many links – e.g., endings and cognates.**



Let's Play

Can you create a poem using just infinitives?

Write your poem firstly in English and then translate it into any language you like: a language you speak or hear at home, a language you like the sound of, a language you are learning or a language that interests you.

You can use a translator (make sure you look up words individually) or a dictionary to help.

- **Theme Ideas**
- **You could write about a dream holiday, your first day out with friends after lockdown or your birthday.**



Let's Share



Can you read your poem to the class?



What language have you chosen to write in and why?



Can you spot the infinitive rule in your chosen language?





Linguistics Plenary.

Double Dutch Quiz.

Take a look at the quiz sheet.
Can you work out which words (infinitives, articles and nouns, plurals nouns) go in the gaps 1 to 8?

This is taken from the UK Linguistics Olympiad.



ik heet	<i>I am called</i>	heten	<i>to be called</i>
ik huur	<i>I rent</i>	huren	<i>to rent</i>
een nek	<i>a neck</i>	nekken	<i>necks</i>
een heer	<i>a man</i>	heren	<i>men</i>
ik gok	<i>I bet</i>	gokken	<i>to bet</i>
ik leef	<i>I live</i>	leven	<i>to live</i>
een lip	<i>a lip</i>	lippen	<i>lips</i>
ik maak	<i>I make</i>	maken	<i>to make</i>
ik geef	<i>I give</i>	geven	<i>to give</i>
ik woon	<i>I live</i>	(1)	<i>to live</i>
een haar	<i>a hair</i>	(2)	<i>hairs</i>
(3)	<i>an ear</i>	oren	<i>ears</i>
een uur	<i>an hour</i>	(4)	<i>hours</i>
(5)	<i>an address</i>	adressen	<i>addresses</i>
(6)	<i>I erase</i>	gommen	<i>to erase</i>
(7)	<i>a raven</i>	raven	<i>ravens</i>
ik stap	<i>I step</i>	(8)	<i>to step</i>



T Double Dutch

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



Amsterdam



Acknowledgements

Double Dutch Activity from the UK Linguistics Olympiad.

