



Infinitive Nouns

Grammar > Intermediate 5



Exercise 1 – Learning

The **infinitive** is the basic form of verbs. There are two types:

1. **bare infinitive** (I **climb** Mt. Everest.)
2. **to infinitive** (I want **to climb** Mt. Everest.)

This lesson is focused on '**to infinitives**'.

Why do we use Infinitives as Nouns?

Infinitives, like gerunds, turn verbs into nouns and noun phrases:

- I want **a university degree**. (= noun)
- I want *to go to university* (= infinitive noun phrase)



How do we use 'To Infinitives' as Nouns?

Noun infinitives work like gerunds. They can be subjects, objects, and subject complements:

Hiking is good for your health. → **To hike** is good for your health. (*'To hike' = subject*)

She likes **hiking**. → She likes **to hike**. (*'To hike' = object*)

My favorite activity is **hiking** → My favorite thing to do is **to hike**. (*'To hike' = complement*)

When we use more than one noun infinitive, we can drop the '**to**' after the first infinitive:

I want **to hike** and **to swim**. → I want **to hike** and **swim**.



Empty It + Infinitive

As mentioned above, we can use noun infinitives as subjects:

- **To hike** Mt. Everest is my goal.

The subject of this sentence is the noun infinitive phrase '**to hike Mt. Everest**'. However, it is unnatural to put the infinitive at the beginning of a sentence. It is better to use an '**empty it**' at the beginning of the sentence:

To hike Mt. Everest is my goal. (= *unnatural sentence*) → It is my goal **to hike Mt. Everest**. (= *natural sentence*)

To understand English movies is difficult. → It's difficult **to understand English movies**.



Exercise 2 – Ordering

Put the words into the correct order.

Example: I to want and run train. → I want to run and train.

Content:

1. is My dream live to in New York.
2. My toilets to is clean job.
3. sleep early our health to It is good for.
4. To dog with my play is relaxing.
5. I to want go to university.
6. text To while driving dangerous is.
7. Everyone likes to shower in the sing.
8. My is hobby to cook.



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: My dream, become a famous singer. → My dream is to become a famous singer.

Content:

1. I love, sing.
2. I really like, dance.
3. He also likes, go to concerts.
4. I don't like, practice.
5. It's more fun, watch TV.
6. play games, is fun.