INFINITIVES

(With and Without To)
How do we define the word “infinitive”?

The base form of a verb (usually with *to*)
Functions:

Infinitives-soundpt2.ppt
Infinitives without *to*

1. After modals auxiliary verbs (including *would rather* and *had better*)
   - You **must come** to my house tonight.
   - She **would rather have** a cup of coffee.

2. **Certain verbs** (let, make, see, hear, feel, watch, notice, help (informal style), *have, *know) + an **object** + **infinives without to**
   - Let **her go**.
   - He **made the girl cry**.

• Note: in passive voice, they are folowed by **to-infinitive**
3. After **Why (not)**, suggesting it is pointless to do something (or introducing suggestion or advice)
   - **Why pay** more if you can get high quality product with a lower price here?
   - **Why not let** him do the job alone?

4. After and, or, except, but, than.
   - I want **to take** a holiday and **have** some fun.
   - I’ll **do** anything **but love** him.
   - I’ll ask him **to go** with us **or wait** here for an hour.

5. In (positive) imperatives or requests.
   - **Leave** her alone.
   - **Open** the door.
   - **Help** me please.
   - **Do** your job carefully.
Infinitives with *to*

Infinitives can “serve” as a noun, an adverb or an adjective.

Therefore, in a sentence, infinitives can appear:

1. as a subject of sentence
   - *To find your house* is difficult.
   - *To see you when I wake up* is a gift I didn’t think could be real.

2. after certain verbs (mostly as an object)
3. In a construction **certain verbs + an object + to infinitive**
   - Everyone here **wants you to tell** us the truth.
   - I **advise you to take** the driving course.
   - He **told everyone to make** a summary every week.

4. After an adjective
   - Your explanation in **difficult to understand**.
   - I’m **glad to see** you again here.

5. After a noun
   - We need **a ladder to paint** the upper wall.
   - I don’t have any **work to do**.

6. After **certain verbs + an interrogative conjunction** (e.g. how, what, who, when, where, whether)
   - Show me **what to do**.
   - I’m still thinking **how to solve** this problem.
Infinitives or V-ing

• After certain verbs both can be used, usually with a difference of meaning.
• Some important cases:
  1. Remember, forget, stop, go on and regret.
  2. Like + v-ing
  3. Hate, love, prefer
  4. Allow, advise, forbid, permit
  5. See, watch, hear.
  6. Try
  7. Begin and start