

To-Infinitives: a type of non-finite verb forms

Other types of non-finite verb forms include gerunds and participles i.e. present past participle and past participle. "to-infinitive" is a verb that is not conjugated to show tense, person, or number and preceded by a 'to'.

In other words, the **"to-infinitive" form** of a verb is its most basic, uninflected form (no -ing, -ed, -e or -es ending). **They can never be the main verb (finite verb) in a sentence.** Here is an example: "To swim" is a "to-infinitive" verb form that can function as an adverbial, an object, a subject, a complement and an object complement of sentences.

An infinitive verb (to swim) in various sentential structures.	Finite verb phrase	Non-finite verb phrase (infinitive verb phrase)	Function in the sentence (Subject, Direct object, Adverbial, complement)
To swim in a lake, he drove to a dam in Kanchanaburi province.	drove	To swim in a lake	as an adverbial
He really wants to swim in a lake.	wants	to swim in a lake	as an object
To swim in a lake is his favorite activity.	is	To swim in a lake	as a subject
He has a strong preference to swim in the lake.	has	to swim in the lake	as a complement of an object (preference)
This pool is to swim.	is	to swim	as a complement of a subject (pool)

Infinitive Verbs (Base Form):

In English, infinitive verbs are often preceded by "to" but can also exist without it in certain cases.

Examples:

"I can swim." (base form: "swim")

"I will *eat* breakfast at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning." (base form: "eat")