

Infinitive Phrases and Infinitive Clauses

16j. An *infinitive phrase* consists of an infinitive and any modifiers or complements the infinitive has. The entire phrase can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

NOUN I want **to nap before dinner**, Joe.

ADJECTIVE Mr. Melomo is not the first **to leave the factory**.

ADVERB I was happy **to hear about your job**.

An *infinitive clause* consists of an infinitive with a subject and any modifiers and complements the infinitive has. The entire clause is used as a noun.

EXAMPLE The choir director wanted **them to sing louder**. [The clause is used as the direct object of *wanted*. The pronoun *them* is the subject of *to sing*, and the adverb *louder* modifies *to sing*.]

EXERCISE Above each of the underlined word groups, write *IP* for *infinitive phrase* or *IC* for *infinitive clause*.

Example 1. Who would have expected ^{*IC*} computers and programming to interest Lord Byron's daughter?

- Augusta Ada Byron King seemed born to use words as effectively as her poet father had.
- Her mother, Lady Byron, did not want to stress literary skills in Ada's education.
- Ada's studies seemed to emphasize algebra, calculus, logic, and physics.
- It was unusual during the early 1800s for a young woman to receive this type of education.
- After meeting Charles Babbage in 1833, Ada was eager to learn more about his work.
- Babbage was already working on a machine to replace his unfinished Difference Engine.
- Ada used Babbage's formulas in programming his new Analytical Engine to add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers in any requested sequence.
- To show related branches being calculated within equations was Ada's goal in using the Bernoulli numbers found in trigonometry.
- Among all the women to contribute to the computer industry, only Ada has had a language named for her.
- The military and the aerospace industry sometimes use the language Ada to power their computer programs.