

## Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases

**16i.** An *infinitive* is a verb form that can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. Most infinitives begin with *to*.

**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.

**INFINITIVE** The top shelf was too high for him **to reach**.

**INFINITIVE PHRASE** **To achieve your goals**, you must work hard.

**EXERCISE A** In each sentence below, indicate whether the word *to* is part of an infinitive or of a prepositional phrase by writing *I* for *infinitive* or *P* for *preposition* on the line provided.

**Example**   I   1. Their request to visit the new aquarium was granted.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. To appear at a royal court is an honor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When the boats were due back, we ran down to the pier.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. There was nothing left for us to do at the end of the day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Evan was trying to help me with chemistry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Mr. Taosie gave the manuscript to the new editor.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence below.

**Example** 1. Have you gone to see the exhibit of Hiroshige's work?

6. My uncle wanted to show me his new picture by Hiroshige.
7. To see an original print by Hiroshige is a joy.
8. Most artists of his time liked to paint women or actors.
9. Hiroshige wanted to depict the natural world.
10. His first major job was to draw illustrations for a book.
11. Later, he went on to complete large sets of prints.
12. At some point he must have decided to concentrate on landscapes.
13. Hiroshige apparently loved to populate his pictures with human figures.
14. Many Western artists, including van Gogh, liked to imitate his scenes.
15. Hiroshige managed to produce over five thousand prints in his lifetime.