

## INFINITIVES

Put simply, an infinitive is any verb with the word TO before it. An infinitive is a kind of verbal (usually a verb which accomplishes the task of another part of speech).

Common infinitives:

To play  
To run  
To dance  
To hide  
To seek  
To drive

Thus,

TO + (ANY) VERB = an INFINITIVE

In the older days of grammar, English instructors used to say "Don't split the infinitive."

EX:

"I know how to quickly run." (Contains a Split Infinitive)

Versus

"I know how to run quickly." (The Infinitive is preserved and not split)

If you can appreciate the subtle change in the feeling of the language and the clarity found in the second sentence, then you understand why splitting the infinitive is not always a good thing.

Today, splitting an infinitive is merely a stylistic thing. Some writers obey the traditional rule (to preserve a sense of formality), while others tend to ignore the rule. You can do either. Just be aware.