

# Recognize an infinitive when you see one.

*To sneeze, to smash, to cry, to shriek, to jump, to dunk, to read, to eat, to slurp*—all of these are infinitives. An infinitive will almost always begin with **to** followed by the simple form of the verb, like this:

**TO** + **VERB** = Infinitive

**Important Note:** Because an infinitive is *not* a verb, you cannot add **s**, **es**, **ed**, or **ing** to the end. Ever!

Infinitives can be used as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. Look at these examples:

*To sleep* is the only thing Eli wants after his double shift waiting tables at the neighborhood café.

\_\_\_\_\_ functions as a noun because it is the subject of the sentence.

No matter how fascinating the biology dissection is, Emanuel turns his head and refuses *to look*.

\_\_\_\_\_ functions as a noun because it is the **direct object** for the verb ***refuses***.

Wherever Melissa goes, she always brings a book ***to read*** in case conversation lags or she has a long wait.

\_\_\_\_\_ functions as an adjective because it modifies ***book***.

Richard braved the icy rain ***to throw*** the smelly squid eyeball stew into the apartment dumpster.

\_\_\_\_\_ functions as an adverb because it explains ***why*** Richard braved the inclement weather.