

1.4b Verbs: The Infinitive

key words: verb, tense, infinitive

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.1e Form and use the simple (e.g., *I walked*; *I walk*; *I will walk*) verb tenses.

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/3/1/e>

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4c Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/3/4/d>

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.1b Form and use the progressive (e.g., *I was walking*; *I am walking*; *I will be walking*) verb tenses. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/4/1/b> (An understanding of the infinitive is an important component of understanding the other verb forms, such as the participle, which forms part of the progressive aspect.)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.1b Form and use the perfect (e.g., *I had walked*; *I have walked*; *I will have walked*) verb tenses. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/5/1/b> (An understanding of the infinitive is an important component of understanding the other verb forms, such as the participle, which forms part of the perfect aspect.)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4c Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/4/4/c>

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4c Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/5/4/c>

The infinitival form of the verb expresses no tense. It is the bare form of the verb and is preceded by *to*: *to coerce*, *to dance*, *to chow down*.

Complete sentences in English (in any language, actually) need a verb that expresses tense, like present, past, or future.

So an infinitive, without tense, must occur along with a tensed verb.

I wanted **to eat** tacos. *want* is past tense, *to eat* is infinitival

She likes **to dance**. *likes* is present tense, *to dance* is infinitival

In some languages, you don't have the *to* in an infinitive. If you know another language, what is the form of the infinitive in your language?

Exercise: What is the connection in meaning between the words *infinity* and *infinitive*? After hypothesizing, look them up!