Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases Used as Nouns

An infinitive or infinitive phrase used as a noun is diagramed on a pedestal like a gerund, except that to is placed on the slanted part of the angled line and the verb form is placed on the horizontal part of the angled line. The horizontal line is then extended to make room for objects and complements and any other modifiers. The verb of the infinitive rests at the top of the pedestal, and the placement of the bottom of the pedestal shows how the infinitive is used in the sentence. Note that to may or may not be expressed. If unexpressed, place it in parentheses.

Examples:
We want to go to the game tonight.

My first idea was quit right now.

EXERCISE 1

In the following sentences, underline the infinitives or infinitive phrases and then diagram the sentences.

1. The club’s goal was to raise one thousand dollars.
2. Gilda expected to pass the class with ease.
3. Seth decided to go to the game by himself.
4. To finish this paper by tomorrow will be very difficult.
5. He did not dare to make the trip alone.
6. To win a championship must be very exciting.
7. Several people attempted to rescue the boy.
8. The teacher tried to show us several ways of solving the problem.
9. Dorothy wanted to have all of it.
10. To swing from a rope over the river can be challenging.

EXERCISE 2

Create sentences to fit these diagrams. Then write each one on the correct diagram.

1. 

2. 

3. 
EXERCISE 3

Unscramble the following groups of words to make complete sentences and then diagram.

1. will she to want go
2. to lunch eat they wish
3. swim well to is one my goals of
4. wanted go to game the everyone to
5. Ben check to begun passports has

EXERCISE 4

Find the mistakes in each diagram. Then, on a sheet of paper, diagram the sentences correctly.

1. Those books need to be saved.

books need to be saved

Those

2. Chris planned to run for president of his class.

Chris planned to run for president of his class

3. The hungry workers hoped to get a good meal.

The hungry workers hoped to get a good meal

4. Jake wants to win this game.

Jake wants to win this game

5. He can learn to speak Spanish with ease.

He can learn to speak Spanish with ease
Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases Used as Modifiers

An infinitive or infinitive phrase used as an adjective or adverb is diagramed on a pedestal. The pedestal is placed on a horizontal line beneath the main line and connected to it by a slanted line. Any modifiers or complements are placed in their usual positions.

Examples:
Robert is unwilling to help his friend. The one to watch is Ernie.

EXERCISE 1
In the following sentences, underline the infinitives or infinitive phrases once and the words they modify twice. Then diagram the sentences.

1. Wendy sets aside some time to work out every day.
2. This is really not the best way to go to the mall.
3. The work to be done is on my desk upstairs.
4. The float to be driven in the parade broke down.
5. They wired the house to be demolished.
6. To play chess, one must be clever.
7. The clouds were hard to see.
8. I am too busy to go to the game tonight.
9. The vocabulary to learn is in the book.
10. This work is not easy to do.

EXERCISE 2
Create sentences to fit these diagrams. Then write each one on the correct diagram.

1.

2.
EXERCISE 3

Unscramble the following groups of words to make complete sentences and then diagram.

1. Heimlich method learn to maneuver the is the ____________________________
2. it find hard to stay I cool ____________________________
3. great is soccer a sport watch to ____________________________
4. change your attitude the to has come time ____________________________
5. teacher thoughtful was to explain reason the for surprise quiz the the ____________________________

EXERCISE 4

Find the mistakes in each diagram. Then, on a sheet of paper, diagram the sentences correctly.

1. The house to be built will be on the hill.

2. Don played the game to win.

3. The theory to understand is simple.

4. The person to speak to is my boss.

5. The information to memorize is on the desk.
Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Since gerunds function as nouns, they are placed on a stepped line atop a pedestal above the base line where a noun normally would appear. The stepped line is then extended to include any objects or complements.

Examples:
Taking classes can be enjoyable.

Matthew helped his father by washing the car after school.

EXERCISE 1
In the following sentences, underline the gerunds or gerund phrases and then diagram the sentences.

1. Susan was soon bored with reading her book.
2. Teresa enjoys reading historical novels.
3. The referee began by introducing the players to each other.
4. Drinking a lot of water is good for you.
5. Flipping hamburgers is a good job in the summer.
6. Ron's hobby is collecting the stamps of many nations.
7. Asking questions will cure his curiosity.
8. Playing baseball is my idea of an enjoyable afternoon.
9. Measuring the ingredients in the recipe will ensure good results.
10. Killing time is the guys' favorite hobby.

EXERCISE 2
Create sentences to fit these diagrams. Then write each one on the correct diagram.

1.

2.

3.
EXERCISE 3
Unscramble the following groups of words to make complete sentences and then diagram.

1. restaurants enjoys family our in eating ____________________________
2. swimming been has her favorite activity always ____________________________
3. dangerous a poorly maintained is car driving ____________________________
4. been has his singing with dream band a ____________________________
5. was Tanika's mistake opening door the next ____________________________

EXERCISE 4
Find the mistakes in each diagram. Then, on a sheet of paper, diagram the sentences correctly.

1. Running fast is really a thrill for me.

2. Cleaning his weapon is an important task for a soldier.

3. You can keep your friends by keeping a secret.

4. His goal was playing chess in the statewide tournament.

5. Kent enjoys climbing mountains during his summer vacation.
Participle and Participial Phrases

A participle is written partially on a slanting line and partially on a horizontal line beneath the word that it modifies. The horizontal line is then extended to include any objects or complements. Notice that the slanting and horizontal lines of the participle or participial phrase are joined at a point.

Examples:
Taking her money with her, Mary ran away.

[Diagram]

The general, pacing the floor, waited for the reply.

[Diagram]

EXERCISE 1
In the following sentences, underline the participles or participial phrases once, and the nouns they modify twice. Then diagram the sentences.

1. Opening the door, Greg saw a huge crowd of people.
2. The car, pictured in the brochure, was a Chevy.
3. Donald saw a giraffe eating leaves.
4. Breathing hard, the runner collapsed.
5. The police, knocking loudly on the door, awakened everybody.
6. Entering the store, Frieda walked down the center aisle.
7. Slipping into the water, the diver disappeared.
8. Walking quickly, Ron soon reached the depot.
9. Agreeing with him, he began dinner.
10. The teacher, torn by emotion, gave the student a poor grade.

EXERCISE 2
Create sentences to fit these diagrams. Then write each one on the correct diagram.

1.

[Diagram]

2.

[Diagram]

3.

[Diagram]
EXERCISE 3

Unscramble the following groups of words to make complete sentences and then diagram.

1. broken fighter in quit the spirit game the
2. John woodpecker hammering the wood heard the
3. by committee Sharon chosen the presented plans
4. alone woods boy scared became the left in the
5. glimpsed Tim a donkey brush in the hiding

EXERCISE 4

Find the mistakes in each diagram. Then, on a sheet of paper, diagram the sentences correctly.

1. Racing down the street, the car narrowly missed several people.

   car | missed | people
   The narrowly several racing down street the

   4. Jim, tired after the long flight, slept soundly.

      Jim | slept | soundly
      tired after the long

2. The team, encouraged by the victories, left for the championship game.

   team | left
   The encouraged victories for the championship

   5. Jumping into the air, the frog caught the fly.

      frog | caught | fly
      the jumping into the air the