

Intermediate 3
Unit 6: Grammar
Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur

Infinitive as the Subject

In English grammar, the infinitive is the base form of a verb, often preceded by the word "to."

Infinitive = to + Simple Form of the Verb

It is possible for the infinitive to be the subject of a sentence, for example:

- **To see you** is nice.
- **To make ends meet** is difficult these days.
- **To learn** is essential for personal growth.
- **To swim in the ocean** is my favorite activity.
- **To travel** broadens one's horizons.
- **To read a good book** is a pleasure.
- **To code** requires patience and practice.

Dummy Subject

We can replace the subjective infinitive with the pronoun "**it**" and use the infinitive after the adjective which follows the verb. In this structure, "it" is meaningless and just has a grammatical function; therefore, we refer to it as a "dummy subject" or a "false subject".

dummy = not real, fake

Infinitive + Verb + Adjective ⇒ It + Verb + Adjective + Infinitive

To see you is nice. ⇒ **It** is nice **to see you**.

To exercise daily is important. ⇒ **It** is important **to exercise daily**.

To learn new skills is beneficial. ⇒ **It** is beneficial **to learn new skills**.

To eat healthy foods is essential. ⇒ **It** is essential **to eat healthy foods**.

To stay hydrated is necessary. ⇒ **It** is necessary **to stay hydrated**.

To read regularly is useful. ⇒ **It** is useful **to read regularly**.

To make ends meet is difficult these days. ⇒ **It** is difficult **to make ends meet** these days.

Infinitive + Verb + Adjective + for sb ⇒ It + Verb + Adjective + for sb + Infinitive

To solve the problem is easy for you. ⇒ It is easy for you to solve the problem.

To understand this concept is difficult for students. ⇒ It is difficult for students to understand this concept.

To make a good first impression is important for job applicants. ⇒ It is important for job applicants to make a good first impression.

To follow these instructions is easy for everyone. ⇒ It is easy for everyone to follow these instructions.

To complete the project on time is necessary for the team. ⇒ It is necessary for the team to complete the project on time.

Infinitive + Verb + Adjective + of sb ⇒ It + Verb + Adjective + of sb + Infinitive

To help her was kind of you. ⇒ It was kind of you to help her.

To remember my birthday was thoughtful of him. ⇒ It was thoughtful of him to remember my birthday.

To apologize was wise of her. ⇒ It was wise of her to apologize.

To bring extra snacks was considerate of you. ⇒ It was considerate of you to bring extra snacks.

To donate to charity was generous of them. ⇒ It was generous of them to donate to charity.

To think so well of me is very kind of you. ⇒ It is very kind of you to think so well of me.

To cheat in front of the teacher's eyes was very foolish of him. ⇒ It was very foolish of him to cheat in front of the teacher's eyes.

That-Clause + Verb + Adjective ⇒ It + Verb + Adjective + That-Clause

That he passed the exam was surprising. ⇒ It was surprising that he passed the exam.

That the teacher saw him cheating is obvious. ⇒ It is obvious that the teacher saw him cheating.

That they completed the project early was unexpected. ⇒ It was unexpected that they completed the project early.

That they are in the red is quite clear. ⇒ It is quite clear that they are in the red.

That the weather changed so quickly was unusual. ⇒ It was unusual that the weather changed so quickly.

That he remembered everyone's names was remarkable. ⇒ It was remarkable that he remembered everyone's names.

Point:

In the above-mentioned structures, the sentences on the left (the original sentences) have got the same meaning as the sentences on the right (the transformed sentences), but it is good to know

the sentences on the right, which contain the dummy subject “it”, are more frequently used than the sentences on the left.

Source:

[Intermediate 3 \(anglophone.ir\)](#)