

Lesson Plan

Infinitive or Not?

Book: *It's Great to Be a Fan in Ohio*

Series: Sports Nation

Level: Voyager

Objective

To help students determine the function of the word *to* in particular sentences, identifying if the word is part of an infinitive or part of a prepositional phrase.

Supplies

- *It's Great to Be a Fan in Ohio*
- Stopwatch or timer

Before the Activity

Have students read *It's Great to Be a Fan in Ohio*.

Activity

Like many words in English, the word *to* can have different functions depending on how it is used in a particular sentence. In some cases, the word *to* is part of an infinitive phrase, such as in the phrase “to be.” In other cases, the word *to* is part of a prepositional phrase, such as in the phrase “to them.”

Review these two kinds of phrases with students. An infinitive phrase describes an action. Infinitives always begin with the word *to*. For example, page 5 says “Ohio is one of the country’s greatest places to watch sports.” In this sentence, “to watch” is an infinitive.

However, not every phrase that starts with *to* is an infinitive. In some sentences, *to* can be part of a prepositional phrase. A prepositional phrase is a group of words that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun. Prepositional phrases describe the relationship between a noun and other words in the sentence. Some prepositional phrases (such as “to bed”) are only two words long. They have just a preposition and a noun. Other prepositional phrases are longer. They include the preposition and a noun, but they can also include modifiers, or words that describe the noun. For example, read the third sentence on page 5: “It’s also home to three big cities with major league teams.” The phrase “to three big cities” is a prepositional phrase.

Because both prepositional phrases and infinitives can begin with the word *to*, it can be hard to tell them apart. Remind students that in an infinitive, *to* is always followed by a verb. In a prepositional phrase, *to* is followed by a noun, even if there are a few words between them.

Play the following game to help students identify if sentences from *It's Great to Be a Fan in Ohio* use prepositional phrases or infinitives. Divide students into two teams. Choose a student from one team to go first. Explain that you will read a sentence from the book that includes the word *to*. After you read the sentence, give the student 30 seconds to decide if *to* is part of an infinitive or a prepositional phrase. If the student is correct, his or her team gets one point, and the student gets to guess again. If the student is incorrect, choose a student from the other team to answer the next question.

Use the following sentences:

1. Ohio fans have a lot **to cheer for.** (INFINITIVE)
2. The first people **to live** in the area now called Ohio were American Indians. (INFINITIVE)
3. They migrated **to the area** as early as 13,000 years ago. (PREPOSITION)
4. Native people showed settlers how **to obtain** animal furs, which were very valuable. (INFINITIVE)
5. Europeans established trading posts **to sell** these furs. (INFINITIVE)
6. White settlers moved onto land that belonged **to the native people.** (PREPOSITION)
7. Many American Indians were killed in wars or forced **to leave.** (INFINITIVE)
8. After the French and Indian War ended, Ohio belonged **to Great Britain.** (PREPOSITION)
9. When the US Civil War began, only two states sent more soldiers **to battles** than Ohio. (PREPOSITION)
10. After the war, Ulysses S. Grant went on **to become** the president of the United States. (INFINITIVE)
11. Ohio could ship its products through the Great Lakes and **to the rest** of the world. (PREPOSITION)
12. From the banks of the Ohio River **to the shores** of Lake Erie, Ohio has many different people and places. (PREPOSITION)
13. The whole state gets together **to cheer on** the Buckeyes. (INFINITIVE)
14. A team from Grand Rapids, Michigan, moved **to Cleveland** in 1900. (PREPOSITION)
15. However, they couldn't break through **to a title.** (PREPOSITION)
16. In 2016, they suffered a heartbreaking World Series loss **to the Chicago Cubs.** (PREPOSITION)
17. Quarterback Otto Graham led the Cleveland Browns **to seven championships.** (PREPOSITION)
18. With a chance **to reach** the Super Bowl in 1987, the Browns collapsed. (INFINITIVE)
19. Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland is the place **to be** during a Cavaliers game. (INFINITIVE)
20. Coach Marvin Lewis led the team **to the playoffs** seven times from 2005 to 2017. (PREPOSITION)

21. The Bengals failed **to win** a single playoff game during that stretch. **(INFINITIVE)**
22. In 1999, the Crew became the first club in MLS **to build** a soccer-specific stadium. **(INFINITIVE)**
23. The Columbus Blue Jackets' name pays tribute **to the blue coats** Ohio soldiers wore during the Civil War. **(PREPOSITION)**
24. Ohio teams can count on their loyal fans **to stay** with them through thick and thin. **(INFINITIVE)**
25. Barry Larkin decided **to play** for the University of Michigan baseball team. **(INFINITIVE)**
26. In 1996, Larkin became the first shortstop **to hit** 30 home runs and steal 30 bases. **(INFINITIVE)**
27. He was elected **to the National Baseball Hall of Fame** in 2012. **(PREPOSITION)**
28. Ohio State went on the road **to face** Ohio Wesleyan University. **(INFINITIVE)**
29. Quarterback Cardale Jones led the 2014 Ohio State Buckeyes **to the national championship**. **(PREPOSITION)**
30. Ohio is home **to 13 Division I men's basketball programs**. **(PREPOSITION)**
31. In 2017, the Musketeers made a run **to the Elite Eight**. **(PREPOSITION)**
32. As of 2018, they had never made it **to a Final Four**. **(PREPOSITION)**
33. Of all the schools in the country, Xavier has won the most tournament games without ever making it **to the final round**. **(PREPOSITION)**
34. Through 2017, Bowling Green University was the only Ohio team **to win** a national title. **(INFINITIVE)**
35. Huge crowds came out **to watch** Jim Thorpe lead the Canton Bulldogs in the early 1900s. **(INFINITIVE)**
36. The Ohio League was one of the leagues that led **to the creation** of the NFL. **(PREPOSITION)**
37. That made Canton the perfect place **to put** the Pro Football Hall of Fame. **(INFINITIVE)**
38. Every summer, fans flock **to Canton** for the Enshrinement Festival. **(PREPOSITION)**
39. Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium is also home **to another Ohio football tradition**. **(PREPOSITION)**
40. Ohio's high schools send a huge number of players **to college and pro football teams**. **(PREPOSITION)**
41. The Browns have mostly struggled **to put together** winning seasons since the 1960s. **(INFINITIVE)**
42. The Cavaliers gave fans very little **to cheer** about before LeBron James arrived in 2003. **(INFINITIVE)**
43. LeBron James became the youngest player **to score** 40 points in an NBA game. **(INFINITIVE)**
44. But in 2010, James decided **to leave** Cleveland. **(INFINITIVE)**
45. His departure **to the Miami Heat** in 2010 showed the curse was alive and well. **(PREPOSITION)**
46. In 2014, James announced he was coming back **to the Cavaliers**. **(PREPOSITION)**
47. And in his first season back, he led the team **to the NBA Finals**. **(PREPOSITION)**

48. Then in 2016, he led them **to a championship**. (**PREPOSITION**)
49. A huge crowd filled downtown Cleveland **to celebrate** the Cavaliers' 2016 NBA championship. (**INFINITIVE**)
50. In 2016, the Indians went **to the World Series**. (**PREPOSITION**)
51. But they lost **to a different "cursed" team**, the Chicago Cubs. (**PREPOSITION**)
52. The team even "retired" the number 455 **to honor** its passionate fans. (**INFINITIVE**)
53. Crew fans like **to say** Columbus and the Crew are "massive." (**INFINITIVE**)
54. The Crew's home stadium has often played host **to the US men's national team**. (**PREPOSITION**)
55. If a team is taking the field in Ohio, fans will be there **to support** them. (**INFINITIVE**)

Evaluation

The team with the most points after you read the last sentence wins.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 8 (RI 8.1).