

509.1 Infinitives

An **infinitive** is a verb form that is usually introduced by *to*; the infinitive may be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

To swim the English Channel must be a thrill. (noun)

If it were easy to swim the Channel, more people would do it. (adverb)

The urge to swim in tropical waters is more common. (adjective)

509.2 Participles

A **participle** is a verb form usually ending in *ing* or *ed*. A participle functions as an adjective but also retains some of the characteristics of a verb. It might be thought of as a “verbal adjective.”

The farmhands harvesting corn are tired and hungry.

(*Harvesting* functions as an adjective by modifying *farmhands*. *Harvesting* also acts like a verb because it has a direct object: *corn*.)

The cribs full of harvested cobs are evidence of their hard work.

(*Harvested* functions as an adjective by modifying *cobs*.)

Common Irregular Verbs and Their Principal Parts

Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle	Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle	Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle
am, be	was, were	been	go	went	gone	show	showed	shown
begin	began	begun	grow	grew	grown	shrink	shrank	shrunk
bite	bit	bitten	hang	hanged	hanged	sing	sang, sung	sung
blow	blew	blown	(execute)			sink	sank, sunk	sunk
break	broke	broken	hang	hung	hung	sit	sat	sat
bring	brought	brought	(suspend)			slay	slew	slain
burst	burst	burst	hide	hid	hidden, hid	speak	spoke	spoken
catch	caught	caught	know	knew	known	spring	sprang	sprung
choose	chose	chosen	lay	laid	laid		sprung	sprung
come	came	come	lead	led	led	steal	stole	stolen
dive	dove	dived	lie	lay	lain	strive	strove	striven
do	did	done	(recline)			swear	swore	sworn
drag	dragged	dragged	lie	lied	lied	swim	swam	swum
draw	drew	drawn	(deceive)			swing	swung	swung
drink	drank	drunk	raise	raised	raised	take	took	taken
drive	drove	driven	ride	rode	ridden	teach	taught	taught
drown	drowned	drowned	ring	rang	rung	tear	tore	torn
eat	ate	eaten	rise	rose	risen	throw	threw	thrown
fall	fell	fallen	run	ran	run	wake	waked	waked
fight	fought	fought	see	saw	seen		woke	woken
flee	fled	fled	set	set	set	wear	wore	worn
fly	flew	flown	shake	shook	shaken	weave	weaved	weaved
forsake	forsook	forsaken	shine	shone	shone		wove	woven
freeze	froze	frozen	(light)	shined	shined	wring	wrung	wrung
get	got	gotten	shine	shined	shined	write	wrote	written
give	gave	given	(polish)					