

Read and Discover

Verbals: Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases

Lesson 9

- a. Lizards belong to a class of animals called reptiles.
- b. Horned lizards have a unique way to escape from predators.

Look at each boldfaced phrase. In which phrase is the word *to* followed by a verb? **b.**

In which phrase is the word *to* followed by an article and a noun? **a.**

An **infinitive** is a phrase made up of the word *to* followed by the present form of a verb (*to escape*). Infinitives may act as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns. An **infinitive phrase** is made up of an infinitive and any other words that complete its meaning. In sentence b. above, *to escape from predators* is an infinitive phrase.

See Handbook Section 25a

Part 1

Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence.

1. I went to the local library to do research on lizards.
2. The librarian helped me to learn the distinguishing characteristics of lizards.
3. I used the library computer to look up information about several lizard species.
4. The largest species of lizard, the Komodo dragon, is able to climb trees.
5. The Komodo dragon's keen sense of smell helps it to find food.
6. When a Komodo dragon bites its prey, deadly bacteria in the lizard's mouth are transmitted to the prey, causing it to die of infection.
7. The flexible skull of the lizard allows it to swallow large chunks of food.
8. Komodo dragons are able to withstand the harsh environment of their habitat.
9. I was amazed to discover that a horned lizard can squirt blood from its eyes.
10. This ability enables the horned lizard to protect itself from predators.
11. The lizard's coloring allows it to blend in with its desert surroundings.
12. The horned lizard's camouflage makes it difficult to spot.
13. During the early part of the day, horned lizards may flatten themselves against rocks to bask in the sun.
14. At night, the lizard uses its spines to dig a hole for itself in the sand.
15. The horned lizard uses its long, sticky tongue to catch ants, its main source of food.



The horned lizard heats itself by basking in the sun.