

Infinitive Verbs

The infinitive (e.g. to do, to sing etc.) ends in:

-ar	cantar
-er	comer
-ir	vivir

Like a noun, the infinitive can be used as the subject of a verb. It is always masculine and sometimes has the article in front:

Me gusta viajar (*I like to travel*)
Hablar idiomas es útil (*Speaking languages is useful*)
El fumar pasivo (*Passive smoking*)

When a Spanish verb governed by a preposition, it is almost always in the infinitive:

Después de llegar (*After arriving*)
Llegó sin ver a nadie (*He arrived without seeing anyone*)

The infinitive is often used to express command in public notices or advertisements:

No fumar (*No smoking*)
Entrar por aquí (*Enter this way*)

Common constructions with the infinitive

1. Al + infinitive → on doing:

al llegar, on arriving
al hablar, on speaking

2. Después de + infinitive → after doing

después de llegar, after arriving
después de cantar, after singing

3. Antes de + infinitive → before doing

antes de acostarse, before going to bed

antes de comer, before having lunch

4. Sin + infinitive → without doing

sin decir nada, without saying anything

sin parar, without stopping