

Grammar terms: simple sentence, singular, split infinitive

Simple sentence

A sentence which contains only one main clause. Examples are: *She is coming; The king is dead; My brother wants to buy a new car.*

Singular

The simplest form of an English noun. This is the form which is entered in a dictionary. Examples are: *dog, tree, girl, flower* etc. A countable noun has two forms: a singular form and a plural form. With an uncountable noun, the singular is the only form that exists at all.

Split infinitive

A particular English construction in which an adverb splits an infinitive and its marker *to*. Examples are:

She decided to never call him again. Here the sequence *to never call* is an example of what is called a 'split infinitive'.

Those who use the term split infinitive believe that there is something wrong with separating the particle *to* from a following infinitive. They are of the opinion that *to* is itself part of the infinitive and they object to breaking up the sequence. But this view is quite wrong because the infinitive is a single word and the particle *to* is not part of the infinitive at all.