

The **infinitive** is the base form of a verb, from which all the different forms are made. It is often used with the word **to** in front of it:

You have *to think* of a number.

A **split infinitive** is what you get if you put an **adverb** between **to** and this base form:

You have *to quickly think* of a number.

Many people think that split infinitives are incorrect. The reason for this is that grammarians in the past believed that good English should be based on Latin constructions. Because the Latin infinitive is a single word (for instance, *amare* ‘to love’) and cannot be split, it was believed the English form, although it is two words, should not be split.

These days people are more relaxed about the use of split infinitives, especially if the alternatives sound clumsy. However, it is still best to avoid them in formal speech or writing whenever you can.



How would you reconstruct these sentences so that they no longer contain split infinitives?

1. **Will you be able to completely finish the work?**
2. **To boldly go where no-one has gone before.**