Practice with Infinitives

Directions: circle each infinitive and indicate if it is a noun, adjective, or adverb; then indicate its use if it is noun or the word modified if it is an adjective or adverb.

1. We go to school to learn how to function as human beings.

2. MacArthur’s famous vow, to return to the Philippines, was fulfilled.

3. To show sympathy for Jack, Jill fell down the hill.

4. Nice is a nice town to visit.

5. The suit was ready to be worn.

6. The acid test is to try the crossword puzzle using a pen.

7. Moses begged the Romans to let the Hebrews go.

8. It is nice to know you.

9. After trying to climb the Eiger, the fellows in our group asked only to rest and sleep and be left alone for several days.

10. To live without fear, to be free to shape our own destinies, and to pursue happiness are fundamental to the American dream.

11. The vagrant pleaded with the staff of the homeless shelter to let him stay the night.

12. The sophomore was so attracted to the freshman girl that he purposely tried to fail all of his subjects.

13. Cy Young’s goal, to be the winningest pitcher, came true.

14. The prisoner of war was happy to breathe fresh air again.

15. Let us leave the subject of infinitives and go on to greater things.

16. “We are all strong enough to endure the misfortunes of others.”*

17. “To achieve a position in the world a man will do his utmost to appear already arrived.”*

18. “Old people love to give good advice: it compensates them for their inability nowadays to set a bad example.”*

19. “It is the habit of mediocre minds to condemn all that is beyond their grasp.”*

20. “Vanity leads us to act against our inclinations more often than does reason.”*  * – Rouchefoucauld