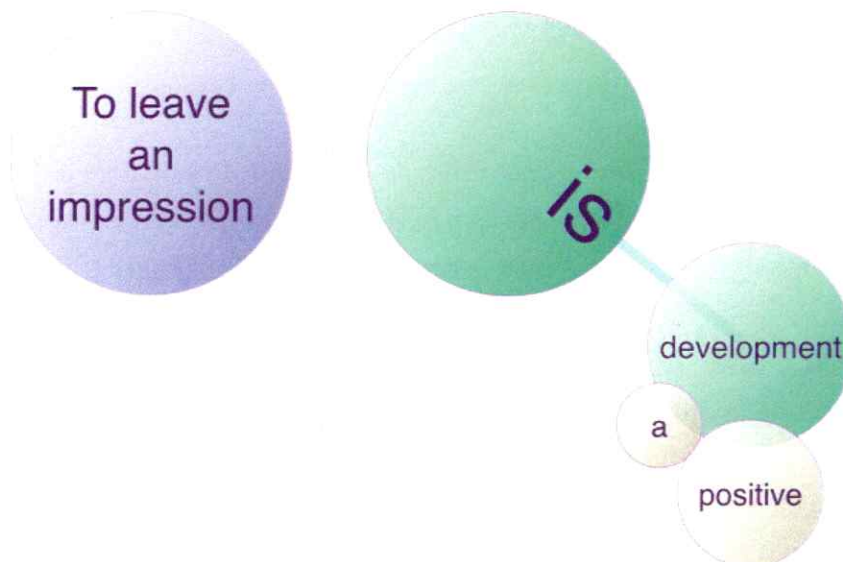




An infinitive phrase as a noun and the subject of the sentence: Because infinitive phrases can be nouns, we find them in the usual noun places, such as the subject of the sentence. Here we see an infinitive phrase, *To leave an impression*, acting as one word, as a noun. In this sentence *impression* is the **object of the infinitive**. Remember that an infinitive is one word, so here *To leave* is a noun.

To	leave	an	impression	is	a	positive	development.
-----n.-----		adj.	n.	v.	adj.	adj.	n.
-----subj.-----				LVP		S.C.	
-----infinitive phrase-----							

Notice here that the entire infinitive phrase is the subject, as though it were one word; a phrase *acts like a single part of speech*. Notice that the infinitive *To leave* is one word, a noun.



To emphasize: It would be wrong to say that *To leave* is the subject of the sentence or that *impression* is the subject of the sentence. The subject is *To leave an impression*; the whole phrase is the subject. A phrase acts like a single part of speech.





An infinitive phrase as a modifier: Infinitive phrases also can be modifiers—i.e., adjectives or adverbs. Adjective: *Eleanor is the one **to deliver the speech**.* Adverb: *She hopes **to see the sunset**.*

Socrates	gave	Plato	the	idea	to	ask	questions.			
n.	v.	n.	adj.	n.	-----adj.-----		n.			
subj.	AVP	I.O.		D.O.						
-----infinitive phrase-----										

Here an infinitive phrase acts as an adjective to modify the direct object.

