



Grammar Girl: Split Infinitive



Dear Grammar Girl,

I went to the doctor today. He diagnosed me with split infinitive. I want to not have this problem. What should I do?

Signed,

Wanting to not be split, from Washington.

Dear Wanting,

I am very sorry to tell you, your case is hopeless.

I once heard of someone who made a complete recovery, only to stumble over Hamlet's famous soliloquy *To be or to not be, that is the question*. Alas and alak, that poor soul went on to do the voice over for Star Trek's opening credits, before perishing in obscurity in a small Hollywood dive called *The Dangling Participle*.

A sad story indeed.

My advice is to look immediately for work in a non-speaking industry. Perhaps you could do voice overs for the deaf. There are, after all, no split infinitives in American Sign Language. You'll be silent forever, but the world will be a better place for it.

Yours in good grammar,

Grammar Girl



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