Infinitive clause as subject

An infinitive clause can be the subject of a sentence. This was common in older English.

*To err* is human; to forgive divine.
*To find* fault with others is easy.
*To make mistakes* is easy.

In modern English infinitive clauses are rarely used as subjects. We more often use it as a ‘preparatory’ subject and put the infinitive clause later.

*It is easy* to find faults with others.
*It is easy* to make mistakes.

Infinitive or gerund?

To talk about an activity in general we often use an -ing (gerund) structure at the beginning of a sentence, rather than an infinitive clause.

*Selling insurance* isn’t easy. (More natural than To sell insurance ...)
*Teaching kids* is a rewarding job.

Infinitive clause as complement

An infinitive clause can be used after be as a subject complement.

My ambition was *to become a pilot*.

Sentences like these can also be constructed with preparatory it.

*It* was my ambition to become a pilot.

Infinitive clause as object

Many verbs can be followed by an infinitive clause in the place of the direct object.

I like *eggs* for breakfast. (Noun object)
I like *to have eggs* for breakfast. (Infinitive clause as object)

The verbs that can be followed by an infinitive include the following:

*afford, agree, appear, arrange, ask, attempt, bear, beg, begin, care, choose, continue, dare, decide, expect, fail, forget, happen, hate, help, hope, intend, learn, like, love, manage, mean, neglect, offer, prefer, prepare, pretend, promise, propose, refuse, regret, remember, seem,
Infinitive clause as subject or object

start, swear, trouble, try, want, wish