

3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

▶ Infinitives and gerunds for uses and purposes

Infinitives

I use my cell phone **to send** messages.
Some people use their phones **to watch** videos.
People often use their phones **to take** photos.

Gerunds

I use my cell phone **for sending** messages.
Some people use their phones **for watching** videos.
People often use their phones **for taking** photos.

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A PAIR WORK What do you know about this technology? Complete the sentences in column A with information from column B. Use infinitives and gerunds. (More than one combination is possible.)

A

- Many people use tablet computers . . .
- You can use your smartphone . . .
- Engineers use 3-D printers . . .
- People can use the Internet . . .
- Companies sometimes use robots . . .
- The police use drones . . .

B

- look for criminals.
- perform dangerous tasks.
- get directions.
- make car parts.
- make video calls.
- learn languages.

Many people use tablet computers to make video calls.

Many people use tablet computers for making video calls.



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- Sentences with infinitives and gerunds mean the same: *I use my cell phone to send text messages* means the same as *I use my cell phone for sending text messages*.
- Use a gerund – not an infinitive – after **for**: Satellites are used **for studying** weather. (NOT: Satellites are used for **to study** weather.)

Read each sentence about a technology item. Write two sentences about the item's use and purpose. Use the information in parentheses.

- My sister's car has a built-in GPS system. (She use / get directions)
 - She uses the GPS system to get directions.
 - She uses the GPS system for getting directions.
- I love my new smartphone. (I use / take pictures)
 - I use my new smartphone to take pictures.
 - I use my new smartphone for taking pictures.
- That's a flash drive. (You use / back up files)
 - You use a flash drive to back up files.
 - You use a flash drive for backing up files.
- My little brother wants his own laptop. (He would only use / watch movies and play games)
 - He would only use to watch movies and play videogames.
 - He would only use for watching movies and play videogames.
- I'm often on my computer all day long. (I use / shop online and do research)
 - I use my computer all day long to shop online and do research.
 - I use my computer all day long for shopping online and do research.



2 Check (✓) the technology and its use. Then write sentences using **be used to**.

1. ☒ text messages ☒ cell phone ☐ photocopies

A cell phone is used to send text messages.

2. ☐ flash drive ☐ take photos ☐ back up files

3. ☐ weather ☐ GPS device ☐ places

4. ☐ videos ☐ messages ☐ video camera

5. ☐ the Internet ☐ robots ☐ information

3 Choose the correct word to complete each sentence. Use the correct form of the word.



1. Robots are used to perform (find / perform / study) many dangerous jobs.
2. Computers are used to _____ (connect / download / sing) music.
3. The Internet is used for _____ (check / watch / write) streaming TV.
4. Home computers are used to _____ (play / pay / have) bills.
5. External hard drives are used for _____ (back up / email / buy) data.
6. Airport scanners are used to _____ (hide / allow / find) dangerous items.

4 Complete the sentences with **used to**, **is used to**, or **are used to**.

1. My sister used to visit me on weekends when I was in college.
2. People _____ write letters, but now they usually send emails instead.
3. A cell phone _____ make calls and send texts.
4. I _____ have a desktop computer, but now I just use a laptop.
5. We download all of our movies. We _____ buy DVDs, but we don't buy them anymore.
6. Wi-Fi networks _____ access the Internet wirelessly.