To ... , for ... and so that ...

A

Study these examples:

- ☐ I phoned the restaurant **to reserve** a table.
- ☐ What do you need **to make** bread?
- ☐ We shouted **to warn** everybody of the danger.
- ☐ This letter is **to confirm** the decisions we made at our meeting last week.
- ☐ The president has a team of bodyguards **to protect** him.

In these examples **to** ... (**to reserve** ... / **to make** ... etc.) tells us the *purpose* of something: why somebody does something, has something, needs something etc., or why something exists.

B

We say 'a place **to park**', 'something **to eat**', 'work **to do**' etc. :

- ☐ It's difficult to find **a place to park** in the centre.   (= a place where you can park)
- ☐ Would you like **something to eat**?   (= something that you can eat)
- ☐ Do you have **much work to do**?   (= work that you must do)
- ☐ I get lonely if there's **nobody to talk to**.
- ☐ I need **something to open** this bottle **with**.

Also **money/time/chance/opportunity/energy/courage** (etc.) **to** do something:

- ☐ They gave us **money to buy** food.
- ☐ Do you have **much opportunity to practise** your English?
- ☐ I need **a few days to think** about your proposal.

C

Compare **for** ... and **to** ... :

for + *noun*	**to** + *verb*
☐ We stopped **for petrol**.	☐ We stopped **to get** petrol.
☐ I had to run **for the bus**.	☐ I had to run **to catch the bus**.

You can say '**for** somebody **to do** something':

- ☐ There weren't any chairs **for us to sit on**, so we sat on the floor.

You can use **for -ing** or **to** ... to talk about the *general* purpose of something, or what it is generally used for:

- ☐ I use this brush **for washing** the dishes.   *or*   ... **to wash** the dishes.

But we do not use **for -ing** to say why somebody does something:

- ☐ I went into the kitchen **to wash** the dishes.   (*not* for washing)

You can use **What** ... **for**? to ask about purpose:

- ☐ **What** is this switch **for**?
- ☐ **What** did you do that **for**?

D   So that

We use **so that** (*not* **to** ...) especially

when the purpose is *negative* (**so that** ... **won't/wouldn't**):

- ☐ I hurried **so that I wouldn't** be late.   (= because I didn't want to be late)
- ☐ Eat something now **so that** you **won't** (*or* **don't**) **get** hungry later.

with **can** and **could** (**so that** ... **can/could**):

- ☐ She's learning English **so that** she **can** study in Canada.
- ☐ We moved to London **so that** we **could** see our friends more often.

You can leave out **that**. So you can say:

- ☐ I hurried **so that** I wouldn't be late.   *or*   I hurried **so** I wouldn't be late.