

GRAMMAR

# The infinitive of purpose

**LEVEL**

Elementary (A2)

**NUMBER**

EN\_A2\_2063G

**LANGUAGE**

English

## Learning outcomes

- I can use the infinitive of purpose in a simple sentence.
- I can effectively use the infinitive of purpose to discuss plans, goals, and ambitions.

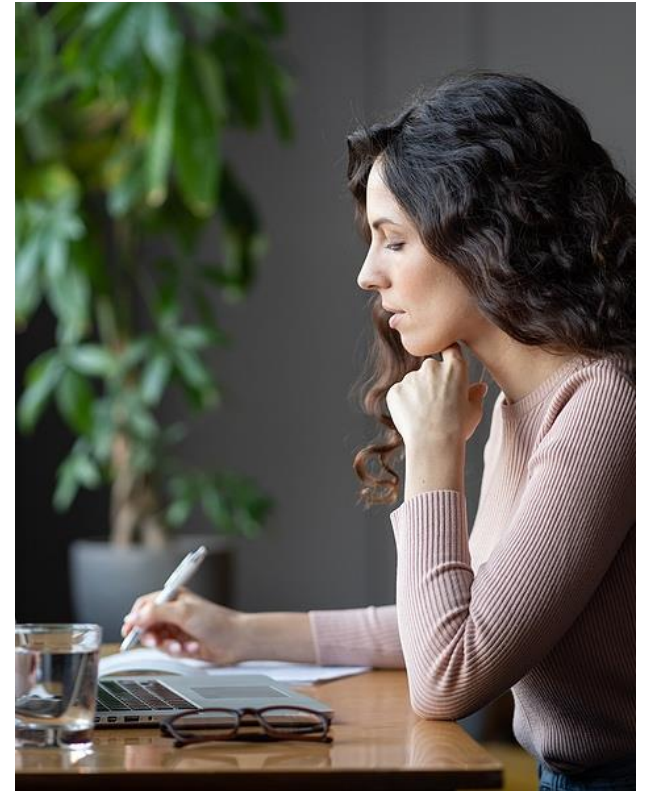


## Warm-up

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **share** your reasons for learning English.

**I am learning  
English to...**

**Complete the sentence with  
your own ideas!**





# Infinitive of purpose

- We use infinitives to show purpose or why we are doing something.
- Infinitives of purpose tell us the reason why we are doing something.

what we are doing

why we are doing it

I read a book...

**to relax.**

You play football...

**to have** fun.

She goes to the gym...

**to get** more exercise.

They travel around the world...

**to meet** new people and **to learn** new languages.

We need more money...

**to pay** our rent.



# Verb tenses

- We can use the infinitive of purpose with a main verb in any tense.

main verb tense	main verb	infinitive of purpose
present simple	I <b>watch</b> the news on TV...	<b>to keep up with</b> current events.
past simple	He <b>went</b> to university...	<b>to get</b> an education.
present continuous	I <b>am working</b> hard...	<b>to earn</b> a promotion.
present perfect	They <b>have gone</b> to Paris...	<b>to see</b> the Louvre.
future	I <b>will go</b> to San Francisco...	<b>to visit</b> my friends.





I read the news on TV  
to **keep up with**  
current events.

If you **keep up with** something, you try to  
stay informed about it.

What do you **keep up with**?



# Word order

- We can use the infinitive of purpose at the beginning of a sentence or after the main clause.

## after main verb

I read a book **to relax in the evening.**

We left work early **to avoid traffic.**

You'll need to plan extra time **to view the whole exhibit.**

## before main verb

**To relax in the evening,** I read a book.

**To avoid traffic,** we left work early.

**To view the whole exhibit,** you'll need to plan extra time.



# Matching

**Match** the pictures to the sentences.

1



2



3



4



5



6



**a**

They ride a bike to get fresh air.

**b**

I have been to the zoo to see a giraffe.

**c**

He used sand to build a castle.

**d**

We met to discuss the budget.

**e**

She is drinking water to cool off.

**f**

I will use my credit card to pay for that.





# Complete the sentences

**Match** the first half of the sentence with its correct second half.

**1** I went to China...

**2** To get to work on time,...

**3** We are meeting at the restaurant...

**4** To enjoy this beautiful day,...

**5** I will look for a job...

**a** to have dinner.

**b** to help my family pay their bills.

**c** you need to leave home at seven o'clock.

**d** to walk on the Great Wall.

**e** we are going to the park after work.

# Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the correct word.

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ the door, turn the doorknob.
2. To pass the test, you \_\_\_\_\_ a score of 60% or higher.
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ packing our furniture to move to a new house.
4. They want to save more money \_\_\_\_\_ travel more often.
5. She drove all the way to the beach to \_\_\_\_\_ the ocean.
6. To learn English, I \_\_\_\_\_ going to London for a month.



are

to

see

need

am

open



# Practise

1. **Look** at the infinitives of purpose below.
2. **Make** sentences about yourself.

to relax

to improve my  
English

to make new  
friends

to save money





# Additional phrases

- We can use **so as** or **in order** with the infinitive of purpose.
  - These phrases don't change the meaning.
  - These phrases don't change the structure.

main verb	additional phrase	infinitive of purpose
I read a book	in order	to relax.
I am working hard	so as	to earn a promotion.



# Negatives

- We can make the infinitive of purpose negative by using these additional phrases and **not**.
  - **Not** always goes after the additional phrase and before the infinitive of purpose.

main verb	additional phrase	infinitive of purpose
I read a book	in order <b>not</b>	to fall asleep.
I am working hard	so as <b>not</b>	to get fired.

# Word order with additional phrases and *not*

- We can use the negative infinitive of purpose before or after the main verb.

## after main verb

I read a book **in order not** to fall asleep at night.

I am working hard **so as not** to get fired.

## before main verb

**In order not** to fall asleep at night, I read a book.

**So as not** to get fired, I am working hard.





# Positive or negative?

- 1. **Read** the sentences.
- 2. **Determine** if the infinitives of purpose are positive or negative.

		positive	negative
1	I'm going to Japan in order to eat a lot of sushi.		
2	So as not to eat too much sushi, I'm only getting one roll.		
3	In order not to lose my passport, I'm packing it in my suitcase.		
4	So as to get a better job, I'm going back to university for another degree.		
5	I'm going to study hard in order not to get poor grades.		





# Complete the sentences

**Complete** the sentences with your own ideas.

1 I went to university to...



*earn a degree and to get a job in my field.*

2 I work hard at my job to...



3 I read books to...



4 I am learning English in order not to...



5 I am going on holiday so as...



6 I am moving to the city in order not...





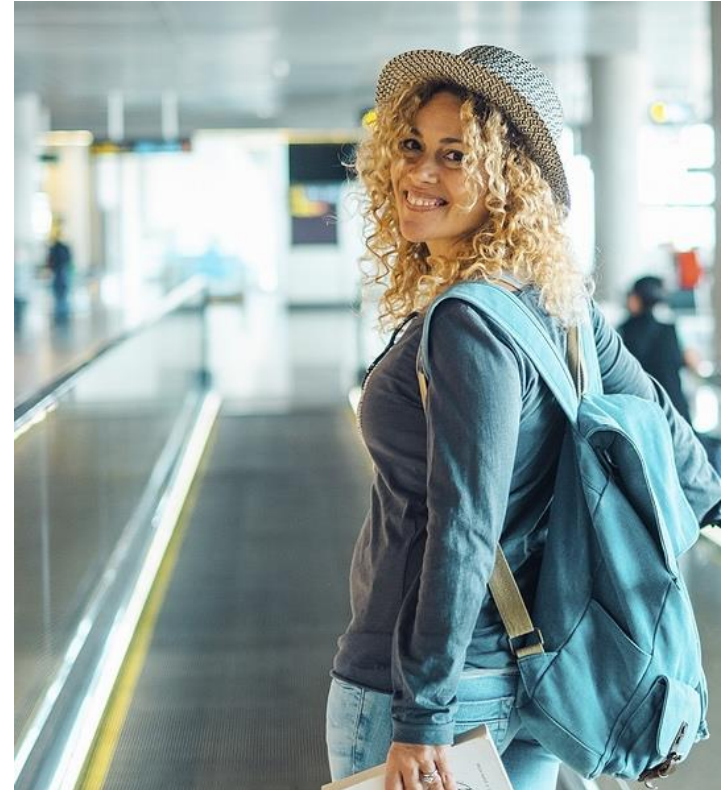
# Holiday plans

1. **Answer** the questions below.
2. **Talk** about your plans for an upcoming holiday.

1 Where are you going? Why are you going there?

2 How are you getting there? Why are you using that form of transportation?

3 What are you going to see there? Why do you want to see those places or things?





# End of the lesson

Idiom

***draw a blank***

**Meaning:** to be unable to remember something

**Example:** He asked me when her birthday was, but I drew a blank. I just couldn't remember!



# Additional practice





# Multiple choice



1 Let's go to the cinema \_\_\_\_\_ a film tonight.

a. to watch

b. watching

2 In \_\_\_\_\_ to get scared, we won't see a horror movie.

a. order not

b. not order

3 We're not seeing a horror movie. We can watch a comedy \_\_\_\_\_ a lot instead.

a. to laugh

b. laugh

4 Do you want to check the schedule \_\_\_\_\_ which films are playing tonight?

a. to see

b. sees

5 So \_\_\_\_\_ miss the film, I checked yesterday. They're showing comedies every night to draw in a younger crowd!

a. as not to

b. not as to



# Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the best word(s).

- 1 He bought flowers \_\_\_\_\_ to his wife.
- 2 She wrote a card \_\_\_\_\_ thank you for the gift.
- 3 They went out to dinner \_\_\_\_\_ their anniversary.
- 4 He ordered a large meal \_\_\_\_\_ hungry during the film.
- 5 They enjoyed the film and then walked home \_\_\_\_\_ more time to talk with each other.

in order to have  
to give  
to celebrate  
to say  
so as not to get





# Discuss

**Use infinitives of purpose to explain why people do the activities in the boxes below.**

sleep

go on holiday

learn English

read a book





# Answer key

**P.7:** 1.) e 2.) c 3.) b 4.) a 5.) d 6.) f

**P.9:** 1.) d 2.) c 3.) a 4.) e 5.) b

**P.10:** 1.) open 2.) need 3.) are 4.) to 5.) see 6.) am

**P.15:** 1.) positive 2.) negative 3.) negative 4.) positive 5.) negative

**p.21:** 1.) a 2.) a 3.) a 4.) a 5.) a

**P.22:** 1.) to give 2.) to say 3.) to celebrate 4.) so as not to get 5.) in order to have



# Summary

## Infinitives of purpose

- We use infinitives to show **purpose** or **why** we are doing something.
- They tell us the reason why we do something: *I read a book **to relax**;* *She goes to the gym **to get fit**.*

## Tenses and word order

- We can use it with a main verb in any tense: → *He went to university **to get** an education.*
- It can be at the beginning of a sentence or after the main clause → ***To relax**, I read a book.*

## In order to and so as to

- We can use **so as** or **in order** with the infinitive of purpose.
- *I read a book **in order to** relax;* *I am working hard **so as to** get a promotion.*

## Negatives

- We can make the infinitive of purpose negative by using **in order not to** or **so as not to**.
- *I read a book **in order not to** fall asleep.;* ***So as not to** get fired, I am working hard.*



# Vocabulary

exhibit

doorknob

to earn

promotion

to get fired



