

Infinitives of Purpose

We use the present perfect tense:

We can use **to + infinitive** to say why we do something. It tells the other person the reason. We need to have a normal verb as well.

The main verb can be in any tense.

For example:

- ° I went to the hill (this is what I did) **to relax** (this is why I did it).
- ° She goes to the hill to **get** the cheese.
- ° I'm calling you **to ask** you about the rolling cheese competition.

Be careful! In many languages, we use "for + infinitive". This is not correct in English.

We can also use **"in order to + infinitive"** and **"so as to + infinitive"**. **"In order to"** is a bit more formal but the meaning is the same as **"so as to"** and **"to + infinitive"**.

- ° I went to the hill to have fun.
- ° I went to the hill in order to have fun.
- ° I went on holiday so as to have fun.

We can use a negative infinitive of purpose by adding **"not"** before **"to"**. Often we do this with **"in order not to"** and **"so as not to"**.

- ° I trained for weeks in order not to have an injury.

We can only use the infinitive of purpose if the subject of the main verb and the infinitive of purpose are the same. If they are different, we use **"so that + clause"** or **"in order that + clause"**.

- ° I went to the cheese rolling to compete. (I went to cheese rolling and I competed - the subjects are both "I")

BUT

- ° I went to the cheese rolling so that John could compete. (I went to the cheese rolling, but John competed. The two subjects are different - I and John - so we can't use an infinitive of purpose.)