

UNIT 63

Infinitive of purpose – 'I went out **to post** a letter.'
So that – 'I hurried **so that** I wouldn't be late.'

a) We use **to + infinitive** to talk about the purpose of doing something (= why someone does something):

- I went out **to post** a letter. (= because I wanted to post a letter)
- She telephoned me **to invite** me to a party.
- We shouted **to warn** everyone of the danger.

We also use **to + infinitive** to talk about the purpose of something, or why someone has/wants/needs something:

- This wall is **to keep** people out of the garden.
- The minister has two bodyguards **to protect** him.
- I need a bottle-opener **to open** this bottle.

You can also use **in order to + infinitive**:

- We shouted **in order to warn** everyone of the danger.

Do **not** use **for** in these sentences:

- I'm going to Spain **to learn** Spanish. (*not* 'for learning / for to learn')

b) We also use **to + infinitive** to say what can be done or must be done with something:

- It's usually difficult to find a place **to park** in the city centre. (= a place where you can park)
- Have you got a lot of work **to do** this evening? (= work that you must do)
- Would you like **something to eat**?
- There were no **chairs to sit on**, so we all had to sit on the floor.
- She is a bit lonely. She's got **nobody to talk to**.

We also say **time/money/energy to do something**:

- They gave me some **money to buy** some food. (*not* 'for buying')
- Did you have **time to answer** all the questions in the examination?

c) Sometimes you have to use **so that (not to + infinitive)** to talk about the purpose of doing something. We use **so that**:

i) 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)
- Leave early **so that you won't** (or **don't**) miss the bus.

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

- He's learning English **so that he can** study in the United States.
- We moved to London **so that we could** visit our friends more often.

iii) when one person does something so that *another* person does something else:

- I gave him my address **so that he could** contact me.
- He wore glasses and a false beard **so that nobody** would recognise him.

UNIT 63 Exercises

63.1 Use the words in brackets to answer these questions.

Example: Why did you go out? (buy some bread) I went out to buy some bread.

- 1 Why do you have to go to the bank? (change some money)
I have to go
- 2 Why did she knock on your door? (wake me up) She
- 3 Why are you saving money? (go to Canada) I
- 4 Why is Ron going into hospital? (have an operation)
.....
- 5 Why are you wearing two pullovers? (keep warm)
- 6 Why did you go to the police station? (report that my car had been stolen)
.....

63.2 Now you have to complete these sentences with a suitable verb.

Examples: The minister has a bodyguard to protect him.

There were no chairs to sit on, so we all had to sit on the floor.

- 1 We are having a party Ann's birthday.
- 2 I didn't have enough time the newspaper today.
- 3 We've got no furniture – not even a bed in.
- 4 I think I need some new clothes
- 5 Tom didn't have enough energy the mountain.
- 6 There will be a meeting next week the problem.
- 7 I need a box these books in.
- 8 It's a pity we haven't got any pictures on the wall.
- 9 I wish I had enough money a new car.

63.3 In this exercise you have to write sentences with so that.

Examples: I hurried. I didn't want to be late. I hurried so that I wouldn't be late.

I'll give you my number. I want you to be able to phone me.

I'll give you my number so that you can (or will be able to) phone me.

- 1 We wore warm clothes. We didn't want to get cold.
We wore
- 2 I spoke very slowly. I wanted the man to understand what I said.
I
- 3 I whispered. I didn't want anyone to hear our conversation.
..... no-one
- 4 Please arrive early. We want to be able to start the meeting on time.
Please arrive
- 5 She locked the door. She didn't want to be disturbed.
.....
- 6 I slowed down. I wanted the car behind to be able to overtake.
.....