

30 Expressing purpose

There are a number of ways to express the purpose of, or reason for, an action. You use different expressions to describe the purpose of an object.

⚙️ **New language** "In order to," "so that"

Aa **Vocabulary** Language of apology

🧩 **New skill** Expressing purpose

30.1 KEY LANGUAGE "IN ORDER TO"

You can use "in order to" to talk about the purpose of an action.



ACTION



PURPOSE

He called the company **in order to** complain.



30.2 OTHER WAYS TO SAY "IN ORDER TO"

Here "so as to" means exactly the same as "in order to."

In informal speech, "in order" and "so as" are often dropped.

He called the company **so as to** complain. He called the company **to** complain.

Base form of verb.



30.3 MATCH THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SENTENCES TO THE CORRECT ENDINGS

He complained to the store

① She searched for the company online

② They gave her a refund

③ The goods were packed carefully

④ They paid for express delivery

⑤ I booked an expensive hotel

in order to get the goods on time.

so as to keep her business.

so as to find its email address.

in order to get a refund.

so as to be able to relax on my trip.

to protect them.



30.4 KEY LANGUAGE "SO THAT"

"So that" has a similar meaning to "in order to" and "so as to," but is less formal.



He complained **so that** he would get a refund.

"So that" is followed by subject + verb.

"So that" is often followed by modal verbs such as "can," "could," and "would."



30.5 FURTHER EXAMPLES "SO THAT"



He reported the problem **so that** it could be fixed in other machines.

If the main verb is in the past, the verb after "so that" usually refers to the past.



They check goods for damage **so that** customers don't receive broken items.

If the main verb is in the present tense, the verb after "so that" usually refers to the present or future.



30.6 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Peter works in the customer service department for a home appliance company. He is talking to a customer about an order.

The customer bought the product in a store.

True ☐ False ☒ Not given ☐

1 The customer is happy with what she received.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

2 The product arrived broken.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

3 The company tries to pack the product well.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

4 The customer number is MN80.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

5 The replacement will arrive the same day.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

6 The replacement will arrive at 3pm.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

7 Peter offers 25 percent off the next purchase.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐



30.7 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, JOINING THEM WITH THE GIVEN EXPRESSION OF PURPOSE

I always go to Austria on vacation. I like to go skiing. [so that]

I always go to Austria on vacation so that I can go skiing.

① Last year we had to complain. We wanted to get a bigger room. [in order to]

② I usually go to the same resort. I like staying in the same hotel. [so that]

③ He bought the latest model. He wanted to impress his friends. [to]

④ I pack very carefully. I don't want to forget anything. [so as not to]

⑤ I went to the top of the highest mountain. I wanted to race down. [so that]

⑥ I went to a hospital. I needed to get an X-ray of my leg. [in order to]



30.8 KEY LANGUAGE GENERAL PURPOSE

Sometimes you may want to talk about why something exists or what it is used for. You can describe a general purpose by using "to" and "for."



"TO" INFINITIVE

You can use this watch to track your heart rate.

You can use a "to" infinitive when the subject of the sentence is a person.

"FOR" + GERUND

The device is perfect for improving your health.

This structure commonly answers the question "What is it (used) for?"

"FOR" + NOUN

It is designed for people who love technology.





30.9 FILL IN THE GAPS USING "FOR" OR "TO"

This form is for complaining about product quality and customer service.

- ① Special "outlet" stores are known _____ selling excess goods at reduced prices.
- ② This process is for customers who want _____ complain about the products they have received.
- ③ People are employed _____ check the quality of the goods before they are sent to stores.
- ④ These notes are here _____ help you complete the form and submit your complaint.
- ⑤ There is a telephone number _____ unhappy customers who wish to make further complaints.
- ⑥ I think a large number of people only complain _____ get refunds.
- ⑦ This new product is _____ busy people who want to make their lives simpler.



30 CHECKLIST

"In order to," "so that" ☐

Aa Language of apology ☐

Expressing purpose ☐

REVIEW THE ENGLISH YOU HAVE LEARNED IN UNITS 27-30

NEW LANGUAGE	SAMPLE SENTENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNIT
REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS	I left myself a reminder about the meeting. The company director gave the talk himself .	<input type="checkbox"/>	27.1, 27.4
VERBS FOLLOWED BY "TO" OR "-ING" (NO CHANGE IN MEANING)	I prefer to meet in person. I prefer meeting in person.	<input type="checkbox"/>	28.1
VERBS FOLLOWED BY "TO" OR "-ING" (CHANGE IN MEANING)	He stopped to talk to her in the office. She stopped talking to him and rushed off.	<input type="checkbox"/>	28.3
GRADABLE AND NON-GRADABLE ADJECTIVES	Her arguments were extremely good . Her arguments were fantastic !	<input type="checkbox"/>	29.1
NON-GRADING ADVERBS	Her presentation was absolutely awful !	<input type="checkbox"/>	29.4
"REALLY," "FAIRLY," "PRETTY," "QUITE"	What you need is a really good idea. Her invention is quite brilliant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	29.7, 29.9
"IN ORDER TO," "SO THAT"	He called the company in order to complain. He complained so that he could get a refund.	<input type="checkbox"/>	30.1, 30.4