

Noun & Infinitive Structures: Purpose and Opportunity

INTERMEDIATE

Focus: Noun + Infinitive, For vs. To, Purpose Clauses (So that)

This worksheet focuses on how we express purpose, reason, and function using infinitives, prepositions, and specific conjunctions.

1. Noun + Infinitive

We often use a **to-infinitive** after a noun to show what we can do with that noun or its purpose.

- **Structure:** Noun/Pronoun + **to** + verb
 - *I have some homework **to do**.*
 - *Is there anything **to eat**?*
 - *I'm lonely. I need a friend **to talk to**.*

Specific Contexts:

- **Time / Money / Opportunity:**
 - *I didn't have enough time **to finish** the exam.*
 - *Do you have the money **to buy** this car?*
 - *I had the opportunity **to travel** abroad.*

Prepositions at the end:

If the verb typically takes a preposition (e.g., sit *on*, talk *to*, write *with*), keep the preposition at the end of the infinitive phrase.

- *There was no chair **to sit on**.* (You sit *on* a chair).
- *I need a pen **to write with**.* (You write *with* a pen).

2. Expressing Purpose: To vs. For

We use different structures to explain **why** we do something.

A. TO + VERB (Infinitive of Purpose)

Use **to** followed by a verb to say why a person does an action.

- *I went to the shop **to buy** some milk.* (NOT: ~~for buy~~ or ~~for buying~~)
- *She called me **to invite** me to the party.*

B. FOR + NOUN

Use **for** followed by a noun.

- *I went to the shop **for some** milk.*
- *We stopped at the pub **for a** drink.*

C. FOR + PERSON + TO + VERB

When the action involves a specific person doing something.

- *I bought a new book **for you to** read.*
- *There is no time **for us to** have dinner.*

3. Purpose Clauses: So That

We use **so that** (or simply **so** in informal speech) to explain the purpose, especially when the subject of the purpose clause is different from the main subject, or when using modals (can/could).

Structure Rules:

1. **Present/Future Context:** Use **can** or **will**.
 - *I will move the table so that you **can** pass.*
 - *Hurry up so that we **won't** be late.*
2. **Past Context:** Use **could** or **would**.
 - *I moved the table so that he **could** pass.*
 - *She worked hard so that her children **would** have a better life.*

Practice: Fill in the Blanks

Instruction: Complete the sentences. Depending on the context, you may need to use:

- **To** + Infinitive (e.g., *to go*, *to sit on*)
- **For** + Noun
- **So that** + clause (including *can/could/will/would*)

Note:

- For questions marked (**so that / ...**), form a complete purpose clause.
- For questions marked (**verb / preposition**), ensure the preposition is in the correct place.

1. I am going to the supermarket _____ (buy) some vegetables.
2. Do you have a moment _____ (talk)? I need your advice.
3. We went to that Italian restaurant _____ (a pizza).
4. I gave the keys to Sarah _____ (so that / she / can / get in) first.
5. There weren't enough chairs for everyone _____ (sit / on).
6. _____ (you / have / time) _____ (help) me with this report later?
7. I didn't have the money _____ (pay) for the tickets.
8. He turned down the music _____ (so that / the neighbors / not / get) angry.
9. This box is too heavy _____ (for / me / lift) alone.
10. She is learning English _____ (so that / she / can / get) a better job in the US.
11. I need something sharp, like a knife or scissors, _____ (open / this package / with).
12. Are we stopping at the gas station _____ (fuel) or _____ (use) the restroom?
13. He wore a warm coat _____ (so that / he / not / catch) a cold.
14. Is there anything good on TV _____ (watch) tonight?
15. Please leave the door open _____ (so that / the cat / can / come) inside.

Answer Key

1. to buy
2. to talk
3. for a pizza
4. so that she can get in (*or 'so she can get in'*)
5. to sit on
6. Do you have time / to help
7. to pay
8. so that the neighbors wouldn't get (*or 'would not get' / 'didn't get'*)
9. for me to lift
10. so that she can get (*or 'so she can get'*)
11. to open this package with
12. for fuel / to use
13. so that he wouldn't catch (*or 'would not catch'*)
14. to watch
15. so that the cat can come (*or 'so the cat can come'*)