

Functions : Expressing Purpose

Purpose with *to*, *in order to* and *so as to*

Use *to* , *so as to*, and *in order to* to express purpose in the affirmative form.

Examples:

- He is looking for a part time job *to* save some pocket money.
- She wakes up early *in order to* be on time to work.
- They visited him *so as to* offer their condolences for the death of his wife.

Use *so as not to* and *in order not to* to express purpose in the negative form.

Examples:

- They woke up early *in order not to* be late.
- She exercises regularly *so as not to* get fat.
- He helped the new policewoman *so as not to* fail in her first mission.

Purpose with *so that*

You can also express purpose with *so that*. In this case you generally need to use a [modal](#).

Examples:

- She told him to play quiet *so that* he wouldn't disturb the neighbors.
- He got a visa *so that* he can travel to the USA.
- He decided to stay in England for a while *so that* he could practice his English.

[Exercise on expressions of purpose](#)