

To ... , for ... and so that ... (purpose)

A

We use **to ...** to say why somebody does something (= the purpose of an action):

- 'Why are you going out?' 'To **post** a letter.'
- A friend of mine phoned **to invite** me to a party.
- We shouted **to warn** everybody of the danger.

We use **to ...** to say why something exists (= its purpose):

- This wall is **to keep** people out of the garden.
- The president has a team of bodyguards **to protect** him.

B

We use **to ...** to say what can be done or must be done with something:

- It's difficult to find a **place to park** in the centre. (= a place where you can park)
- Would you like **something to eat**?
- Have you got **much work to do**? (= work that you must do)
- I get lonely if there's **nobody to talk to**.
- I need **something to open** this bottle with.

Also **money/time/chance/opportunity/energy/courage** etc. to (do something):

- They gave us **some money to buy** some food.
- Do you have **much opportunity to practise** your English?
- I need **a few days to think** about your proposal.

C

For ... and to ...

Compare:

for + noun

- I'm going to Spain **for a holiday**.
- What would you like **for dinner**?
- Let's go to the pool **for a swim**.

to + verb

- I'm going to Spain **to learn** Spanish.
(*not for learn, not for learning*)
- What would you like **to eat**?
- Let's go to the pool **to have** a swim.

You can say '**for (somebody) to (do something)**':

- There weren't any chairs **for us to sit on**, so we had to sit on the floor.

You can use **for -ing** or **to ...** to talk about the general purpose of something, or what it is generally used for:

- Do you use this brush **for washing** the dishes? (*or ... to wash* the dishes?)

You can use **What ... for?** to ask about purpose:

- What** is this switch **for**?
- What** did you do that **for**?

D

So that

Sometimes you have to use **so that** for purpose.

We use **so that (not to ...)** especially

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.

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

- She's learning English **so that she can** study in Canada.
- We moved to London **so that we could** see our friends more often.

64.1 Choose from Box A and Box B to make a new sentence with to

- A
- 1 ~~I shouted~~
 - 2 I had to go to the bank
 - 3 I'm saving money
 - 4 I went into hospital
 - 5 I'm wearing two sweaters
 - 6 I phoned the police

- B
- 1 I want to keep warm
 - 2 I wanted to report that my car had been stolen
 - 3 I want to go to Canada
 - 4 I had to have an operation
 - 5 I needed to get some money
 - 6 ~~I wanted to warn people of the danger~~

- 1 I shouted to warn people of the danger.
- 2 I had to go to the bank
- 3 I
- 4
- 5
- 6

64.2 Complete these sentences using a suitable verb.

- 1 The president has a team of bodyguards to protect him.
- 2 I didn't have enough time the newspaper today.
- 3 I came home by taxi. I didn't have the energy
- 4 'Would you like something?' 'Yes, please. A cup of coffee.'
- 5 We need a bag these things in.
- 6 There will be a meeting next week the problem.
- 7 I wish we had enough money another car.
- 8 I saw Helen at the party, but we didn't have a chance to each other.
- 9 I need some new clothes. I don't have anything nice
- 10 They've just passed their exams. They're having a party
- 11 I can't do all this work alone. I need somebody me.

64.3 Put in to or for.

- 1 I'm going to Spain for a holiday.
- 2 You need a lot of experience this job.
- 3 You need a lot of experience do this job.
- 4 We'll need more time make a decision.
- 5 I went to the dentist a check-up.
- 6 I had to put on my glasses read the letter.
- 7 Do you have to wear glasses reading?
- 8 I wish we had a garden the children play in.

64.4 Write sentences with so that.

- 1 I hurried. I didn't want to be late. I hurried so that I wouldn't be late.
- 2 I wore warm clothes. I didn't want to be cold.
I wore
- 3 I left Dave my phone number. I wanted him to be able to contact me.
I
- 4 We whispered. We didn't want anybody else to hear our conversation.
..... nobody
- 5 Please arrive early. We want to be able to start the meeting on time.
Please
- 6 Jennifer locked the door. She didn't want to be disturbed.
.....
- 7 I slowed down. I wanted the car behind me to be able to overtake.
.....