

33 Purpose

334 Purpose is normally expressed by the infinitive

Purpose can be expressed by:

A The infinitive alone:

He went to France to learn French. They stopped to ask the way. When there is a personal object of the main verb, the infinitive may refer to this and not to the subject:

He sen! Tom to the shop Co buy bread. (Tom was to buy the bread.)

E in order or so as + infinitive

in order + infinitive can imply either that the subject wants to perform the action or that he wants it to happen.

so as + infinitive implies only that the subject wants the action to happen, in order is, therefore, the more generally useful,

in order or so as are used:

1 With a negative infinitive to express a negative purpose:

He left his gun outside in order/so as not to frighten us.

2 With to be and to have:

She left work early in order/so as to be at home when he arrived. She gave up work in order/so as to have more time with the children.

3 When the purpose is less immediate:

He is studying mathematics in order/so as to qualify/or a better job. She learnt typing in order to help her husband with his work.

4 Sometimes in longer sentences, to emphasize that the infinitive indicates purpose:

He was accused of misrepresenting the facts in order/so as to make the scheme seem feasible.

He took much more trouble over the figures than he usually did in order/so as to show his new boss what a careful worker he was. (But in order/so as is not essential and is often omitted.) When the infinitive of purpose precedes the main verb, in order/so as may be placed first:

In order/So as to show his boss what a careful worker he was, he took extra trouble over the figures. (But here also in order/so as may be omitted.)

5 When there is a personal object but we want the infinitive to refer unambiguously to the subject:

He sent his sons to a boarding school in order/so as to have some peace. (He, not his sons, was going to have some peace.) Compare with:

He sent his sons to a boarding school to team to live in a community.

(Not he but his sons were to learn to live in a community.) But this in order/so as construction is not very common. It is more usual to say:

He sent his sons to a boarding school because he wanted to have some peace.

in order (but not so as), used to emphasize that the subject really had this purpose in mind:

He bought diamonds when he was in Amsterdam! ~ That wasn't surprising. He went to Amsterdam in order to buy diamonds, (not for any other purpose)

We could also, however, express^this idea by stressing the first verb and omitting in order: He 'went to Amsterdam to buy diamonds.

Infinitive + noun + preposition:

/ want a case to keep my records in.

I need a corkscrew to open this bottle with. Note that here we are talking about a particular purpose. For a general purpose we use for + gerund:

This is a case for keeping records in.

A corkscrew is a tool for opening bottles.

335 Infinitives of purpose after go and come

It is not normal to use an infinitive of purpose after the imperative or infinitive of go and come. Instead of Go to find Bill we normally say Go and find Bill; and instead of Come to talk to Ann

we say Come and talk to Ann; i.e. instead of an imperative + an infinitive of purpose we use two imperatives joined by and. And instead of:

I must go to help my mother and I'll come to check the accounts we normally say:

I must go and help my mother and I'll come and check the accounts. i.e. instead of an infinitive + an infinitive of purpose we use two infinitives joined by and (see 246 I).

But when go and come are used as gerunds or in any present or past tense they take the ordinary infinitive of purpose:

I'm thinking of going to look for mushrooms.

I went to help my mother.

I've come to check the accounts.

I didn't come to talk to Bill; I came to talk to you.

336 Clauses of purpose

Clauses are necessary when the person to whom the purpose refers is different from the subject of the main clause, or when the original subject is stated again:

Ships carry lifeboats so that the crew can escape if the ship sinks. This knife has a cork handle so that it will float if it falls overboard.

A Purpose clauses are usually expressed by so that + will/would or can/could + infinitive. can/could is used here to mean will/would be able to:

They make £10 notes a different size from £5 notes so that blind people can (= will be able to) tell the difference between them. They wrote the notices in several languages so that foreign tourists could (= would be able to) understand them. can and will are used when the main verb is in a present, present perfect or future tense; could and would are used when the main verb is in a past tense. See the examples above and also:

/ light/am lighting/have lit/will light the fire so that the house will be warm when they return.

I have given/will give him a key so that he can get into the house whenever he likes.

I pinned the note to his pillow so that he would be sure to see it. There were telephone points every kilometre so that drivers whose cars had broken down would be able to/could summon help. If that is omitted from purpose clauses with can/could, the idea of purpose may disappear. The sentence He took my shoes so that I couldn't leave the house would normally mean 'He took my shoes to prevent my leaving etc.' but He took my shoes, so I couldn't leave the house would normally mean 'He took my shoes; therefore I wasn't able to leave'.

B Purpose clauses can also be formed by so that/in order that/that + may/might or shall/should + infinitive. These are merely more formal constructions than those shown in A above. There is no difference in meaning.

Note that so that can be followed by will/can/may/shall or their past forms, while in order that or that are limited to may/shall or their past forms.

that used alone is rarely found except in very dramatic speech or writing, or in poetry.

The rules about sequences of tenses are the same as those shown above. The following are very formal:

We carved their names on the stone so that/in order that future generations should/might know what they had done. These men risk their lives so that/in order that we may live more safely.

may in the present tense is much more common than shall, which is rarely used. In the past tense either might or should can be used. The student should know the above forms but should not normally need to use them, as for all ordinary purposes so that + can/could or will/would should be quite sufficient.

C Negative purpose clauses are made by putting the auxiliary verb (usually will/would or should) into the negative:

He wrote his diary in code so that his wife wouldn't be able to read it-He changed his name so that his new friends wouldn't know that he had once been accused of murder.

Criminals usually telephone from public telephone boxes so that the police won't be able to trace the call.

Negative purpose clauses can, however, usually be replaced by to prevent + noun/pronoun + gerund, or to avoid + gerund-

He dyed his beard so that we shouldn't recognize him/to prevent us recognizing him/to avoid being recognized, (passive gerund) She always shopped in another village so that she

wouldn't meet her own neighbours/to avoid meeting her own neighbours. These infinitive phrases are preferred to negative purpose clauses.

337 in case and lest

A in case

in case + subject + verb can follow a statement or command:

I don't let him climb trees in case he tears his trousers. This first action is usually a preparation for, or a precaution against, the action in the if-clause, which is a possible future action.

in case + present tense normally has the meaning 'because this may happen/because perhaps this will happen' or 'for fear that this may happen' -

in case + past tense normally means 'because this might happen/because perhaps this would happen' or 'for fear that this would happen'.

Both present tense and past tense here can be replaced by **should** + infinitive. **should** used here would express greater improbability, but this construction is not very usual,

B Tenses with in case

Main verb

Future

present tense or Present + in case +

should + infinitive Present perfect J

Conditional 1 (,

past tense or

Past tense + in case +

should + infinitive

Past perfect ;

I'll make a cake in case someone drops in at the weekend.

I carry a spare wheel in case I have/should have a puncture.

I always keep candles in the house in case there is a power cut.

I always kept candles in the house in case there was a power cut. (See also 227.)

lest means 'for fear that' and is followed by should:

He doesn't/didn't dare to leave the house lest someone should recognize him.

lest is rarely found except in formal written English.

34 Clauses of reason, result, concession, comparison, time

338 Clauses of reason and result/cause

Except for the type shown in A2 and A3 below, both these clauses can be introduced by *as* or *because*. But *as* is safer for clauses of reason (see A below) and *because* is safer for clauses of result/cause (see B).

A Clauses of reason

1 Introduced by *as/because/since*;

We camped there *as/because/since* it was too dark to go on. *As/Because/Since* it was too dark to go on, we camped there.

2 'in view of the fact that' can be expressed by *as/since/seeing that*, but not *because*:

As/Since/Seeing that you are here, you may as well give me a hand. *As/Since/Seeing that* Tom knows French, he 'd better do the talking.

3 Where *as/since/seeing that* refers to a statement previously made or understood, it is replaceable by *if*:

As/Since/Seeing that/If you don't like Bill, why did you invite him? Note the use of *if so*:

I hope Bill won't come. ~ *If so* (= If you hope he won't come), why did you invite him? For *if + so/not*, see 347.

B Clauses of result/cause (see also 339) are introduced by *because* or *as*:

The fuse blew *because* we had overloaded the circuit.

He was angry *because* we were late.

As it/rose hard that night there was ice everywhere next day.

As the soup was very salty we were thirsty afterwards.

C These combinations could also be expressed by two main clauses joined by *so*:

It was too dark to go on, *so* we camped there.

You are here, *so* you may as well give me a hand.

It froze hard that night, *so* there was ice everywhere next day.

therefore can also be used. *but* is normal only in fairly formal sentences:

The Finnish delegate has not yet arrived. We are *therefore* postponing/We have *therefore* decided to postpone/*Therefore* we are postponing the meeting. (Notice possible positions of *therefore*.)

339 Clauses of result with **such/so . . . that**

A **such** is an adjective and is used before an adjective + noun:

They had **such** a fierce dog that no one dared to go near their house. He spoke for **such** a long time that people began to fall asleep.

B **so** is an adverb and is used before adverbs and with adjectives which are not followed by their nouns:

The snow fell **so** fast that our footsteps were soon covered up. His speech went on for **so** long that people began to fall asleep. Their dog was **so** fierce that no one dared come near it.

But **such** is never used before **much** and **many**. **so** is used even when **much** and **many** are followed by nouns:

There was **so** much dust that we couldn't see what was happening. **So** many people complained that they took the programme off.

C Note that **such + a + adjective + noun** is replaceable by **so + adjective + a + noun**, so that 'such a good man' is replaceable by 'so good a man'. This is only possible when a noun is preceded by *a/an*. It is not a very usual form but may be met in literature. Sometimes for emphasis **so** is placed at the beginning of the sentence. It is then followed by the inverted form of the verb (see 45):

So terrible was the storm that whole roofs were ripped off.

340 Clauses of concession

These are introduced by *although*, *though* (see 327, 329), *even though*, *even if*, *no matter*, *however* (see 85) and sometimes by *whatever*, as is also possible, but only in the adjective + *as + be* construction.

Although/Though/Even though/Even if you don't like him you can still be polite.

No matter what you do, don't touch this switch.

However rich people are, they always seem anxious to make more money.

However carefully you drive, you will probably have an accident eventually.

Whatever you do, don't tell him that I told you this.

Patient as he was, he had no intention of waiting for three hours.

(though he was patient) may + infinitive can be used in hypothetical cases:

However frightened you may tie yourself, you must remain

outwardly calm. may can also imply 'I accept the fact that':

But he's your brother! ~ He may be my brother but I don't trust him!

But may used in this way is part of another main clause, not a clause of concession.

should + infinitive can be used after even if just as it can after if in conditional sentences, to express the idea that the action expressed by the infinitive is not very likely to take place;

Even if he should find out he won't do anything about it.

341 Clauses of comparison

A Comparisons with adjectives and finite verbs (see also 20-2);

It's darker today than it was yesterday.

He doesn't pay as much tax as we do/as us.

He spends more than he earns.

Note that + adjective, a colloquial form:

Will it cost £1W? ~ No, it won't cost as much as (ail) that. It won't

be (alt) that expensive. (It won't be as expensive as that.) that + adjective is sometimes used colloquially to mean very.

B Comparisons with adverbs and finite verbs (see also 31-4):

He didn't play as well as we expected/as well as you (did). He sings more loudly than anyone I've ever heard/than anyone else (does). You work harder than he does/than him/than I did at your age.

C Comparisons with adjectives and infinitives or gerunds

Often either can be used, but the infinitive is more usual for a particular action, and gerunds are more usual for general statements (see also E below):

It's sometimes as cheap to buy a new one as (it is) (to) repair the old one.

Buying a new one is sometimes as cheap as repairing the old one.

He found that lying on the beach was just as boring as sitting in his office or

He found lying on the beach just as boring as sitting etc. (The infinitive would be less usual here.)

He thinks it (is) safer to drive himself than (to) let me drive.

He thinks that driving himself is safer than letting me drive.

It will soon be more difficult to get a visa than it is now.

Getting a visa will soon be more difficult than it is now.

D In comparisons of the type shown in C above, if we have an infinitive before as/than we will usually have an infinitive (not a gerund) after it. Similarly, if we have a gerund before as/than we will normally have a gerund (not an infinitive) after it. See examples above. But if we have a finite verb + this/that/which before as/than we can have a gerund after it. An infinitive is possible but would be much less usual:

I'll deliver it by hand; this will be cheaper than posting it.

He cleaned his shoes, which was better than doing nothing.

E Infinitives are used with would rather/sooner (see 297-8):

Most people would rather work than starve. I would resign rather than accept him as a partner.

342 Time clauses

A These are introduced by conjunctions of time such as:

after *immediately* *till/until*
as *no sooner . . . than* *when*
as soon as *since* *whenever*
before *the sooner* *while*
hardly . . . when

They can also be introduced by the minute, the moment.

For examples with when, as, while, see 331-3.

For examples with before, see 195 B.

B Remember that we do not use a future form, or a conditional tense, in a time clause.

Each of the following future forms becomes a present tense when we put it in a time clause-
Future simple:

You 'll be back soon. I'll stay till then. = I'll stay till you get back.

be going to:

The parachutist is going to jump. Soon after he jumps his parachute will open.

The present continuous, used as a future form, and the future continuous:

He's arriving/He 'll be arriving at six but

When he arrives he'll tell us all about the match.

Before he arrives I'll give the children their tea. But the continuous tense can, of course, be used in time clauses when it indicates a continuous action:

Peter and John will be playing/are playing/are going to play tennis tonight. While they are playing (during this time) we 'll go to the beach.

The future perfect changes to the present perfect, and the future perfect continuous changes to the present perfect continuous:

I'll have finished in the bathroom in a few minutes.

The moment/As soon as I have finished I'll give you a call.

A conditional tense changes to a past tense:

We knew that he would arrive/would be arriving about six. We knew that till he arrived nothing would be done.

But when when introduces a noun clause it can be followed by a future or conditional tense:

He said. 'When will the train get in?' =

He asked when the train would get in.

C Clauses with *since* (see also 187-8)

In clauses *since* is usually followed by perfect tenses (but see 188);

They 've moved house twice since they got married or Since they got married, they 've moved house twice. He said he'd lived in a tent since his house burnt down. It's ages since I sailed/have sailed a boat. I haven't sailed a boat since I left college.

D Clauses with **after**

In clauses **after** is often followed by perfect tenses:

After/When he had rung off I remembered. . .

After/When you 've finished with it, hang it up.

E **hardly/scarcely . . . when, no sooner . . . than** (see also 45) The performance had hardly begun when the lights went out or Hardly had the performance begun when the lights went out.

scarcely could replace *hardly* here but is less usual,

He had no sooner drunk the coffee than he began to feel drowsy or No sooner had he drunk the coffee than he began to feel drowsy. He no sooner earns any money than he spends it or Immediately he earns any money he spends it. (more colloquial)

Note also the sooner . . . the sooner:

The sooner we start, the sooner we'll be there.

35 Noun clauses

Noun clauses are very often introduced by **that** and are therefore often called **that**-clauses. However, not all noun clauses are **that**-clauses.

343 Noun clauses (that-clauses) as subject of a sentence

A Sentences with noun clause subjects usually begin with *it* (see 67 D):

It is disappointing that Tom can't come.

'*that Tom can't come*' is the subject.

B The usual construction is *it* + **be/seem** + adjective + noun clause (see 26-7):

It's splendid that you passed your exam.

It's strange that there are no lights on.

Some adjectives require or can take **that . . . should** (see 236):

It is essential that everybody knows/should know what to do.

An alternative construction is **it + be/seem + a** + noun + noun clause. Nouns that can be used here include **mercy, miracle, nuisance, pity, shame, relief, wonder, a good thing** is also possible.

It's a great pity (that) they didn't get married.

It's a wonder (that) you weren't killed.

It's a good thing (that) you were insured.

I **that**-clauses after certain adjectives/participles

The construction here is *subject* + *be* + adjective/past participle + noun clause:

I am delighted that you passed your exam.

This construction can be used with

(a) adjectives expressing emotion: **glad, pleased, relieved, sorry** (see 26 P)

(b) adjectives/participles expressing anxiety, confidence etc.: **afraid, anxious, aware, certain, confident, conscious, convinced** (see 27). **anxious** requires **that . . . should**.

I'm afraid that I can't come till next week.

Are you certain that this is the right road?

345 that-clauses after certain nouns

A **that**-clause can be placed after a large number of abstract nouns. The most useful of these are: **allegation, announcement, belief, discovery, fact, fear, guarantee, hope, knowledge, promise, proposal, report, rumour, suggestion, suspicion, proposal** and **suggestion** require **that . . . should**,

The announcement that a new airport was to be built nearby aroused immediate opposition.

The proposal/suggestion that shops should open on Sundays led to a heated discussion.

A report that the area was dangerous was ignored by the residents.

346 Noun clauses as objects of verbs

A **that**-clauses are possible after a large number of verbs. Some of the most useful are given below.

<i>acknowledge</i>	<i>find (wh)</i>	<i>recommend</i>
<i>admit</i>	<i>forget (wh)</i>	<i>remark</i>
<i>advise</i>	<i>guarantee</i>	<i>remember (wh)</i>
<i>agree</i>	<i>happen</i>	<i>remind</i>
<i>allege</i>	<i>hear (wh)</i>	<i>request</i>
<i>announce</i>	<i>hope</i>	<i>resolve</i>
<i>appear</i>	<i>imagine (wh)</i>	<i>reveal (wh)</i>
<i>arrange (wh)</i>	<i>imply</i>	<i>say (wh)</i>
<i>ask (wh)</i>	<i>indicate (wh)</i>	<i>see (wh)</i>
<i>assume</i>	<i>inform</i>	<i>seem</i>
<i>assure</i>	<i>insist</i>	<i>show (wh)</i>

<i>beg</i>	<i>know (wh)</i>	<i>state (wh)</i>
<i>believe (wh)</i>	<i>learn</i>	<i>stipulate</i>
<i>command</i>	<i>make out (= state)</i>	<i>suggest (wh)</i>
<i>confess</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>suppose</i>
<i>consider (wh)</i>	<i>notice (wh)</i>	<i>teach</i>
<i>declare</i>	<i>observe</i>	<i>tell (wh)</i>
<i>decide (wh)</i>	<i>occur to + object</i>	<i>think (wh)</i>
<i>demand</i>	<i>order</i>	<i>threaten</i>
<i>demonstrate</i>	<i>perceive</i>	<i>turn out</i>
<i>determine</i>	<i>presume</i>	<i>understand (wh)</i>
<i>discover</i>	<i>pretend</i>	<i>urge</i>
<i>doubt</i>	<i>promise</i>	<i>vow</i>
<i>estimate (wh)</i>	<i>propose</i>	<i>warn</i>
<i>expect</i>	<i>prove (wh)</i>	<i>wish</i>
<i>fear</i>	<i>realize (wh)</i>	<i>wonder (wh)</i>
<i>feel</i>	<i>recognize</i>	

and other verbs of communication, e.g. complain, deny, explain etc.
(see 316 C).

wh: see E below.

Examples

They alleged/made out that they had been unjustly dismissed. He assumes that we agree with him. I can prove that she did it.

Most of the above verbs can also take another construction (see chapters 23-6). Note however that a verb + that-clause does not necessarily have the same meaning as the same verb + infinitive/gerund/present participle: He saw her answering the letters means 'He watched her doing this' but He saw that she answered the letters could mean either 'He noticed that she did this' or 'He made sure by supervision that she did this'.

C **appear, happen, occur, seem, turn out** require **it** as subject:

It appears/seems that we have come on the wrong day.

It occurred to me that he might be lying.

It turned out that nobody remembered the address.

D that + subject + should can be used after agree, arrange, be anxious, beg, command, decide, demand, determine, be determined, order, resolve and urge instead of an infinitive construction, and after insist and suggest instead of a gerund:

They agreed/decided that a statue should be put up.

He urged that the matter should go to arbitration.

He suggested that a reward should be offered. (See 235, 302 E.)

Verbs in section A marked '(wh)' can also be followed by noun clauses beginning with **wh**-words:

what, when, where, who, why, or with **how**:

He asked where he was to go.

They'll believe whatever you tell them.

I forget who told me this.

Have you heard how he is getting on?

I can't think why he left his wife.

I wonder when he will pay me back.

347 **so** and **not** representing a **that**-clause

A After **believe, expect, suppose, think** and after **it appears/seems**:

Will Tom be at the party? -- I expect so/suppose so/think so = I think he will.

For the negative we use:

A negative verb with **so**:

Will the scheme be a success? ~ I don't believe so/expect so/suppose so/think so.

Are they making good progress? ~ It doesn't seem so.

2 Or an affirmative verb with **not**:

It won't take long, will it? ~ No, I suppose not or

I don't suppose so.

The plane didn't land in Calcutta, did it? ~ I believe not or

I don't believe so.

B **so** and **not** can be used similarly after hope and be afraid (= be sorry to say):

Is Peter coming with us? ~ I hope so.

Will you have to Ray duly on this? ~ I'm afraid so.

The negative here is made with an affirmative verb + not:

Have you got a work permit? ~ I'm afraid not.

C **so** and **not** can be used after say and tell + object:

How do you know there is going to be a demonstration? ~ Jack said so/Jack told me so.

I told you so! can mean 'I told you that this was the case/that this would happen'. This usually annoys the person addressed. For tell the only negative form is negative verb + so:

Tom didn't tell me so.

For say there are two negative forms, but the meaning is not the same:

Tom didn't say so = Tom didn't say that there would be a demonstration.

Tom said not = Tom said there wouldn't be a demonstration.

D **if + so/not**

so/not after **if** can replace a previously mentioned/understood subject + verb:

Will you be staying another night? If so (= If you are), we can give you a better room. If not (= If you aren't), could you be out of your room by 12:00?

if so/not here usually represents a clause of condition as shown above, but for if so, see also 338 A.