



- A: Where did you go?
 B: I went to the shop to buy these post-its.
 A: What are they for?
 B: I need them for my work. They're great for planning.
 A: Why are you writing on them?
 B: To plan each stage of a project.
 A: Why do they help you?
 B: The colours are good for thinking and I like to move them around so that I can try out different ideas.

Presentation

Use *to ... , for ...* and *so that ...* to explain why people do something, or the purpose of an object. Phrases with these words answer questions with *Why?* or *What for?*

to + infinitive

Use *to + infinitive* to:

- say why we do something:
*I bought them **to use** at work.*
- answer questions with *why*: *Why are you writing on them? **To plan** each stage of the project.*

Only use *to + infinitive* if the subject of the sentence is the same as the subject of the infinitive:

*I went to the shop **to buy** these. (= I went to the shop. I bought these post-its.)*

for + noun

Use *for + noun* to say why we do something:

*I need them **for my work**.*

for + -ing

Use *for + ing* to talk about the purpose or function of an object:

*They're great **for planning**.*

so that

Use *so that* if we do something to get a specific or planned result. We often use it:

- with the modal verbs *can*, *could*, *will* or *would*: *I like to move them around **so that I can** try out different ideas.*
- when the result is negative: *I bought them **so that I wouldn't** forget my ideas.*

When the result is not planned, use *so*, not *so that*:

*I lost my post-its **so that** I forgot my ideas.*

We often use *so* instead of *so that* in everyday spoken English:

*I cycle to work everyday **so** (that) I don't have to pay for a bus.*

Exercises

1 Put the words in the correct order.

- 1 I go / improve / to a class / my English / to
- 2 my ideas down / I / to write / bought / a book
- 3 came / a chat / here / they / for
- 4 an app / testing / your maths / this is / for
- 5 so that / I'm studying / I'll pass / the exam
- 6 so I / the bus / missed my / was late / lesson

2 Choose the correct form. In one sentence both answers are possible.

- 1 A: Why are you staying up so late?
B: *To study* / *For studying* for my exams.
- 2 He needs to leave now *so that* / *for* his flight.
- 3 I was in a hurry *so* / *so that* I forgot my keys.
- 4 She's gone back to the train station *for finding* / *to find* her bag.
- 5 This gadget is *for opening* / *to open* tins.
- 6 I've downloaded a calendar *so that* / *for* I remember my appointments.
- 7 They left this morning *so that* / *for* a conference.
- 8 Let's wait here *so that* / *so* we can get a taxi.

3 Complete the sentences with the words *to*, *for* or *so that*.

- 1 We're going out do some shopping.
- 2 He went to the office a meeting.
- 3 Let's get to the cinema early we get good seats.
- 4 This app is testing my German vocabulary.
- 5 I used some glue fix the toy.
- 6 She called ask if you wanted some help.
- 7 I need a new car I don't have to go the garage every week!
- 8 They went to Spain their holidays.
- 9 We could stop now take a coffee break.
- 10 I bought this piece of sports equipment I can get healthy.

4 Complete these sentences so they are true for you.

- 1 At the moment I'm learning to
- 2 Last weekend I went to for
- 3 I want to buy a so that