

A In order / so as + to-infinitive

To talk about the purpose of an action we can use **in order / so as + to-infinitive**:

- He took the course **in order to get** a better job.
- Trees are being planted by the roadside **so as to reduce** traffic noise.

In spoken English in particular it is much more common simply to use a **to-infinitive** without 'in order' or 'so as' to express the same meaning:

- He took the course **to get** a better job.

We rarely use just **not + to-infinitive**, but instead use **so as not to** or **in order not to**:

- He kept the speech vague **in order not to commit** himself to one side or the other. (*not ... vague not to commit himself ...*)
- I wrote down her name **so as not to forget** it. (*not ... name not to forget ...*)

However, in contrastive sentences we can use **not + to-infinitive, but + to-infinitive** as in:

- I came to see you **not (in order / so as) to complain, but (in order / so as) to apologise.**

Note that we can put **in order / so as** before the **to-infinitives** in sentences like this.

B In order that and so that

We also use **in order that** and **so that** to talk about a purpose. Compare:

- She stayed at work late **in order / so as to complete** the report. *and*
- She stayed at work late **in order that / so that** she could complete the report. (*not ... in order that / so that to complete the report.*)

So that is more common than **in order that**, and is used in less formal situations. Note that informally we can leave out **that** after **so**, but we always include it after **in order**.

A present tense verb in the main clause is usually followed by a present tense verb (or a modal with present or future reference – **can, will**, etc.) in the clause beginning **in order that / so that**. A past tense verb in the main clause is usually followed by a past tense verb (or a modal with past reference – **could, would**, etc.) in the clause beginning **in order that / so that**. Modal verbs are very often used after **in order that / so that**:

- Regular checks *are made* **in order that** safety standards *are maintained*.
- Advice *is given* **in order that** students *can* choose the best course.
- Did* you give up your job **so that** you *could* take care of your mother?
- I *hid* the presents **so that** Marianna *wouldn't* find them.

C Such that and in such a way that / as to; such ... that

In formal contexts, such as academic writing, we can use **such that** to introduce a result:

- The model was designed **such that** the value of *x* could be calculated. (= 'in a way that has the result that ...'; or ... **in order that** ...; or ... **so that** ...)

Less formally we can also use **in such a way that** or **in such a way as + to-infinitive** with a similar meaning:

- The advertisement is printed **in such a way that** two very different pictures can be seen depending on how you look at it.
- Our business is managed **in such a way as to minimise** its environmental impact.

We can also use **such + noun phrase + that** to introduce a result:

- It is **such a popular play that** all the performances were sold out after the first day. (For **so + adjective / adverb + that**, see Unit 73.)

Exercises

81.1 Combine the two sentences in the most appropriate way using **in order (not) + to-infinitive** or **so as (not) + to-infinitive**. **A**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 I had to borrow money from the bank. | a This was done to encourage people to use public transport. |
| 2 He packed his suitcase with the books at the bottom. | b We wanted to prevent people walking across the grass. |
| 3 Bus fares in the city were being cut. | c I didn't want to damage the growing crops. |
| 4 We crept quietly towards the deer. | d I did this to set up the business. |
| 5 I walked around the outside of the field. | e They didn't want to disrupt traffic too much. |
| 6 We put up a fence. | f We didn't want to frighten them away. |
| 7 She looked down at the book in front of her. | g She wanted to avoid his gaze. |
| 8 The roadworks were carried out at night. | h He didn't want to crush his clothes. |

1 + d I had to borrow money from the bank in order to set up the business.
(or ... so as to set up ...)

81.2 Look again at the sentences you wrote in 81.1. Is it also possible to use only a **to-infinitive**, without **in order** or **so as**? Write **✓** or **X**. **A**

1 I had to borrow money from the bank to set up the business. ✓

81.3 Complete the sentences with the correct versions of the phrases from the box. **B**

it will / would receive the new channels
 it won't / wouldn't take up a lot of computer memory
 mosquitoes can't / couldn't get in nobody will / would know it was there
~~people can / could walk around the gardens~~ we can / could see the view over the city

- They have an open day at their house each year so that people can walk around the gardens.
- I put a rug over the stain on the carpet so that
- There were screens on all the windows so that
- The software is designed so that
- We went up to the top floor so that
- The TV needs to be retuned so that

81.4 Rewrite each sentence less formally in two ways; once using **in such a way that** and once using **in such a way as to**. **C**

- The factory demolition was planned such that any risk to the public was avoided.
 The factory demolition was planned in such a way that any risk to the public was avoided. / The factory demolition was planned in such a way as to avoid any risk to the public.



- The meeting room is designed such that everyone's voice can be heard without the use of microphones.
- The website is organised such that it is easy to navigate.
- If the dial is rotated such that the number 1 is at the top, the valve opens.