

to ..., for ... and so that ...

A

We say:

- ☐ I called the restaurant **to reserve** a table.
- ☐ What do you need **to make** bread?
- ☐ We shouted **to warn** everybody of the danger.
- ☐ This letter is **to confirm** the decisions we made at our meeting last week.
- ☐ The president has a team of bodyguards **to protect** him.

In these examples **to ... (to reserve ... / to make ... etc.)** tells us the *purpose* of something: why somebody does something, has something, needs something etc., or why something exists.

B

We say 'a place **to park**', 'something **to eat**', 'work **to do**' etc. :

- ☐ It's hard to find **a place to park** in the city centre. (= a place where you can park)
- ☐ Would you like **something to eat**? (= something that you can eat)
- ☐ Do you have **much work to do**? (= work that you must do)

Sometimes there is a preposition (**on, with** etc.) after the verb:

- ☐ Is there **a chair to sit on**? (= a chair that I can sit on)
- ☐ I get lonely if there's **nobody to talk to**.
- ☐ I need **something to open** this bottle **with**.

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

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

C

Compare **for ...** and **to ...****for + noun**

- ☐ We stopped **for petrol**.
- ☐ I had to run **for the bus**.

to + verb

- ☐ We stopped **to get** petrol.
- ☐ I had to run **to catch** the bus.

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

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

We use **for (do)ing** to say what something is used for:

- ☐ This brush is **for washing** the dishes.

But we do not use **for -ing** to say why somebody does something:

- ☐ I went into the kitchen **to wash** the dishes. (*not* for washing)

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

- ☐ **What** is this switch **for**? (= what is it used for?)
- ☐ **What** did you do that **for**? (= why did you do that?)

D

so thatWe use **so that (not to ...)** especially with **can/could** and **will/would**:

- ☐ She's learning English **so that** she **can** study in Canada.
- ☐ We moved to London **so that** we **could** see our friends more often.
- ☐ I hurried **so that** I **wouldn't** be late.
(= because I didn't want to be late)

You can leave out **that**. So you can say:

- ☐ I hurried **so that** I wouldn't be late. or I hurried **so** I wouldn't be late.

Exercises

64.1 Choose from Box A and Box B to make sentences with **to ...**.

A

- 1 I shouted
- 2 I opened the box
- 3 I moved to a new apartment
- 4 I couldn't find a knife
- 5 I called the police
- 6 I called the hotel
- 7 I employed an assistant

B

- 1 I wanted to be nearer my friends
- 2 I wanted someone to help me with my work
- 3 I wanted to report the accident
- 4 ~~I wanted to warn people of the danger~~
- 5 I wanted to see what was in it
- 6 I wanted to chop the onions
- 7 I wanted to find out if they had any rooms free

- 1 I shouted to warn people of the danger.
- 2 I opened the box
- 3 I
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

64.2 Complete these sentences using **to + a suitable verb**.

- 1 The president has a team of bodyguards to protect him.
- 2 I don't have enough time all the things I have to do.
- 3 I came home by taxi. I didn't have the energy
- 4 Would you like something ? Coffee? Tea?
- 5 Can you give me a bag these things in?
- 6 There will be a meeting next week the problem.
- 7 Do you need a visa to the United States?
- 8 I saw Helen at the party, but I didn't have a chance to her.
- 9 I need some new clothes. I don't have anything nice
- 10 They've passed their exams. They're going to have a party
- 11 I can't do all this work alone. I need somebody me.
- 12 Why are you so scared? There's nothing afraid of.

64.3 Put in **to** or **for**.

- 1 We stopped for petrol.
- 2 We'll need time make a decision.
- 3 I went to the dentist a check-up.
- 4 He's very old. He needs somebody take care of him.
- 5 Can you lend me money a taxi?
- 6 Do you wear glasses reading?
- 7 I put on my glasses read the letter.
- 8 I wish we had a garden the children play in.

64.4 Make one sentence from two, using **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 get cold.
I wore warm clothes
- 3 I gave Mark my phone number. I wanted him to be able to contact me.
I gave Mark my phone number
- 4 We spoke very quietly. We didn't want anybody else to hear us.
We spoke very quietly nobody else
- 5 Please arrive early. We want to be able to start the meeting on time.
Please arrive early
- 6 We made a list of things to do. We didn't want to forget anything.
We made a list of things to do
- 7 I slowed down. I wanted the car behind me to be able to overtake.
I slowed down