

INFINITIVES OF PURPOSE

A2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Explain why you do something with to + a verb.

1. READ: A trip into town

Read the conversation. Notice the bold phrases explaining purpose.

Leo: Are you going into town this afternoon?

Anna: Yes, **to buy** a charger. My old one's broken.

Leo: Can I come? I need to go to the library **to return** a book.

Anna: Of course. I'll take my backpack **to carry** everything.

Leo: Good idea. Shall we meet outside the station?

Anna: Yes, at two. We can stop at the cafe **to get** a drink afterwards.

2. GRAMMAR: Explain a purpose

Use to + the base verb to explain why someone does something. It answers the question Why?

Part	Pattern	Example
Action	What you do	I went to the shop ...
Purpose	to + base verb	... to buy some milk.
Another example	Action + purpose	She called to ask a question.

Use the **base verb**: **to buy**, not to buying.

Compare: **I went to the bank** (place); **I went out to get some cash** (purpose).

For + noun is different: I went out **for some milk** / **to buy some milk**.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct form. The example answer is bold: I went out **to buy** / for buy bread.

1. She called to ask / to asking a question.
2. I took a bag to carry / for carry the books.
3. He went to the cafe to meet / to meets a friend.
4. We left early to catch / catching the train.
5. I went to the shop for some bread / to some bread.
6. She uses a notebook to write / to writing new words.
7. I opened the window to get / to gets some fresh air.
8. They stopped to have / to having a rest.

Read each answer aloud. Check the subject, the noun or the clue.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: A busy morning

Complete with to + a verb. Use each once: buy, catch, eat, meet, return, study.

I left home early (1) _____ the bus into town.

First, I went to the library (2) _____ some books.

I found a quiet table there (3) _____ for my English test.

At lunchtime, I walked to the cafe (4) _____ my sister.

We stopped at the bakery (5) _____ some sandwiches.

Then we went to the park (6) _____ our lunch in the sunshine.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Correct the verb form.

Example: I called to asking about the course. **I called to ask about the course.**

1. She went out to buying a ticket.

2. I use my phone to checking bus times.

3-4: Join the sentences using to. Keep the first action first. Example: I went out. I wanted to get milk. **I went out to get milk.**

3. I took a pen. I wanted to write notes.

4. We went out. We wanted to buy bread.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three true sentences explaining why you go somewhere, use something or learn English.

Example: **I go to the park to walk. I use my phone to check the weather. I learn English to travel.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

1. Ask: **Why do you use your phone? Why do you go to the library?** Give answers with **to**.

2. Plan three errands in town. Explain where you'll go and why.

Example: **We'll go to the post office to send a parcel.**

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: A trip into town

Sample target language from the conversation:

Anna: Yes, **to buy** a charger. My old one's broken.

Leo: Can I come? I need to go to the library **to return** a book.

Anna: Of course. I'll take my backpack **to carry** everything.

Anna: Yes, at two. We can stop at the cafe **to get** a drink afterwards.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. to ask | 2. to carry |
| 3. to meet | 4. to catch |
| 5. for some bread | 6. to write |
| 7. to get | 8. to have |

B. COMPLETE: A busy morning

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. to catch | 2. to return |
| 3. to study | 4. to meet |
| 5. to buy | 6. to eat |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. She went out to buy a ticket.
2. I use my phone to check bus times.
3. I took a pen to write notes.
4. We went out to buy bread.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: I go to the park to walk. I use my phone to check the weather. I learn English to travel.

Teacher note: Focus on purpose, not every use of an infinitive. For + noun can express purpose, but for + base verb cannot. In C3-4, accept equivalent sentences retaining the original meaning.