

## Lesson Plan: Expressing purpose

<b>Level</b>	Intermediate (B1–B2)
<b>Time</b>	60–75 minutes
<b>Skills</b>	Grammar, writing, speaking
<b>Focus</b>	In order to / so as to / to + infinitive; so that + clause; for + noun; negative purpose

### OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use in order to, so as to, to, and for correctly to express purpose
- Form negative purpose structures: in order not to, so as not to
- Use so that + clause when subjects differ or a modal is needed
- Choose the most natural purpose structure for a given context

### TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

#### *To / in order to / so as to + infinitive (same subject)*

- She went to the gym to lose weight.
- He studied hard in order to pass the exam. (more formal/emphatic)
- I spoke quietly so as not to wake the baby. (negative purpose — formal)

#### *So that + clause (often different subject, or modal needed)*

- She spoke slowly so that everyone could understand. (different subject)
- He left early so that his wife wouldn't worry.
- I've written it down so that I don't forget.

#### *For + noun (purpose of a thing, not an action)*

- This knife is for cutting bread. / What's this button for?
- For is used for the purpose of an object — not a personal action.
- Common error: I went there for to see him. ✗ → I went there to see him. ✓

#### *Negative purpose*

- in order not to: I took a taxi in order not to be late.
- so as not to: She whispered so as not to disturb anyone.
- so that...wouldn't: She set an alarm so that she wouldn't oversleep.

#### *Meaning & Nuance*

Structure	When to use	Formality	Example
to + infinitive	simple purpose, same subject	neutral	I called to confirm the booking.
in order to	formal or emphatic purpose	formal	He resigned in order to pursue other interests.
so as to	formal, often in writing	formal	She left early so as to avoid the rush.

so that + clause	different subjects / with modals	neutral–formal	Speak up so that everyone can hear.
for + noun	purpose of a thing	neutral	This form is for visa applications.
in order not to	negative purpose (formal)	formal	She left quietly in order not to disturb him.

## LESSON PROCEDURE

### 1. Warm-up: Why? (5 min)

**Task:** Teacher does an action. Students guess the purpose.

- Teacher picks up a pen → 'You're picking it up to/in order to write something.'
- *Elicits purpose language naturally and shows it's everywhere.*

### 2. Presentation (15 min)

**Task:** Introduce structures by formality level.

- to = most common. in order to / so as to = formal or emphatic.
- so that = when subjects differ or a modal is needed.
- Negative forms — drill each one.

### 3. Transformation practice (15 min)

**Task:** Rewrite each sentence using a different purpose structure.

- 'She took notes so she wouldn't forget.' → 'She took notes in order not to forget.'
- *Students see that multiple forms are often possible.*

### 4. Writing task (20 min)

**Task:** Write a paragraph describing a goal and the steps taken to achieve it.

- Must use at least 3 different purpose structures.
- Peer review: are the structures accurate? Is formality consistent?

## TEACHER NOTES

- 'For + to + verb' (I went for to see) is common from Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian speakers.
- So that is underused — many learners default to 'to' even when subjects differ or a modal is needed.

## EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Write 6 sentences expressing purpose using 4 different structures.
2. Write a paragraph about why you are learning English using 3 purpose structures.
3. Correct 5 errors involving purpose structures in a given text.