

SECTION 2

Result and Purpose

1 RESULT CLAUSES

Ways of introducing result clauses include:

so...(that)

So comes at the beginning of the result clause:

There were nine of us so we had to bring more chairs.

- We also use *so* before adjectives and adverbs followed by a *that*-clause (we can omit *that*):
He was so fed up (that) he threatened to resign.
So disgusted were they by the bad language (that) they walked out. (= formal)

such...(that)

We use *such* before a noun or an adjective + noun, followed by a *that*-clause (we can omit *that*):

They had such a great time (that) no one wanted to go home. Such was our annoyance (that) we refused to cooperate further. (= formal)

- We use *in such a way that* and *in such a way as to* meaning 'with the result that':
He designed the room in such a way that it looked bigger than it actually was.
The city centre is signposted in such a way as to completely confuse most tourists.

Other ways of expressing result include:

- *Therefore*, *consequently*, and *as a result* are adverbials that help to express result:
Sales are down. Therefore there'll be no pay rise this year.
We didn't eat the shellfish and consequently weren't as sick as everyone else.
There was a shortage of lifeboats on the Titanic and 1500 people died as a result.
- We can use *otherwise* and *or else* to express the consequences of not doing something:
We need to speed up, otherwise we'll be late.
Let's put the price up or else we'll make no profit at all.

2 PURPOSE CLAUSES

Ways of introducing purpose clauses include:

to-infinitive

The most common way to express purpose is to use a *to*-infinitive (called an 'infinitive of purpose'), especially to express one particular purpose:

I phoned to find out if he was still there.

I didn't do it to annoy you.

in order to and so as to

We use *in order to* and *so as to*:

- to emphasise intentions or requirements:
I arrived early so as to / in order to appear keen.
- to express a negative motive or purpose:
In order not to be misunderstood, let me put it another way.
I told him when he was alone so as not to embarrass him in public.
- to avoid confusion with other uses of *to*-infinitive:
I helped him in order to make sure he arrived safely.
I helped him to get the answer. (= not an infinitive of purpose)

in order that and so that

We use *in order that* and *so that* when the second subject begins with a noun or pronoun:

✗ *I've drawn a map for you in order to find the house.*

✓ *I've drawn a map for you in order that you can find the house.*

Other ways of expressing purpose include:

- We use *for* in front of nouns to express purpose:
They did it for a laugh.
- We often use *for* + *-ing* with a similar meaning to a *to*-infinitive:
We use this Allen key for tightening the screws.
We use this Allen key to tighten the screws.
- We use *for fear of / that* (and *lest* in very formal English) to introduce possible consequences that we are trying to avoid:
They left at night for fear of being followed.
He locked his drawer lest somebody should look in it overnight.

See Section 4 for other ways of expressing purpose.

? check

Mark (P) next to sentences that contain a purpose clause, and (R) next to those with a result clause.

- Such was their confusion that my parents ended up getting totally lost.
- So brilliant a footballer was he that he played for his country at the age of 18.
- I worked hard so that my mother wouldn't complain.
- We'd left early to make sure we got there in time.
- They played loud music every evening, so the neighbours began to complain.