

Infinitives of Purpose

Point 1: An infinitive of purpose describes the "purpose" of a noun.

1. I have an old guitar to play at parties.
2. I have lots of tools to do odd jobs.
3. We need to save money to buy a new car.
4. We have a dog to protect our house.

Point 2 : Infinitives of purpose appear after a noun.

1. I bought a car to get to work.
2. I need a box to carry these upstairs.
3. I have a thick jacket to wear on cold days.
4. You need a key to open the door.

Point 3 : The "to" in the verb is heavily reduced.

1. I bought a car /tə/ get to work.
2. I need a box /tə/ carry these.
3. I have a thick jacket /tə/ wear on cold days.
4. We need a key /tə/ open the door.

Point 4 : There are some idioms using these infinitives of purpose.

1. It takes money to make money.
2. Everyone needs a shoulder to cry on.
3. He has money to burn.
4. You don't have the guts to do it.

Infinitives of Purpose

Read and listen to four conversations using the grammar.

Conversation 1 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Woman: I love this break room. It's a great place **to work**.

Man: Yes, It's a nice environment **to relax** and **clear** your head.

Woman: I love the view, too. It's a nice distraction **to break** the tension of work.

Man: I wish the whole office was like this, really.

Woman: I wouldn't go that far. I still like the privacy of my own office.

Man: Well, I don't need an office **to be** productive. I can work from anywhere.

Woman: Not me. I need a room **to be** by myself sometimes.

Man: Yeah, I think most people feel the same way.

Conversation 2 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Woman: Hello, can I help you?

Man: Yes. I'd like to get something for my wife for her birthday.

Woman: Alright. What did you have in mind?

Man: She said she wants a dress **to wear** for social occasions.

Woman: Well, what about this one? It's a nice dress **to wear** for all occasions.

Man: I think this would look good on her. I guess this will do.

Woman: Would you like these shoes and this bag **to go** with it?

Man: No, thanks. Just the dress will do. Do you have a box **to wrap** it in?

Woman: We do. Let me take care of you at the register.

Conversation 3 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Hello. Can I ask you some questions about this computer?

Woman: Sure. I'd be glad to help.

Man: Does it have a webcam **to hold** online meetings?

Woman: No, it doesn't, but it has a slot **to connect** to a camera.

Man: OK, does it have a good graphics card **to play** video games?

Woman: Not this model, but we have another computer that does. It also has a webcam.

Man: Great! Can I see it?

Woman: Yes, it's right over here.

Conversation 4 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Woman: I love your new car. It's much nicer than your last one.

Man: Thanks. I needed a new one **to do** my job.

Woman: I see it has a navigation system.

Man: Yes, it's very useful. I need it **to help** me find locations around town. My clients are scattered all over the city.

Woman: Was it expensive? It looks like it costs a lot.

Man: It was. I needed a loan **to pay** for it, but since I work in sales, it was worth the money.

Woman: Well, as they say, it takes money **to make** money.

Man: That is the truth. You can't argue with that.

Corporate Vocabulary – Financial

Budget

The amount of money allocated for specific expenses.

“My wife and I have a tight budget for our international travel.”

“My spouse and I maintain a limited budget for our international travel.”

Forecast

An estimate of future events, especially related to finances.

“Our expenses forecast for next year is higher due to inflation.”

"Our forecasted expenses for the coming year are expected to be higher as a result of inflation."

Variance

The difference between a budgeted, planned, or standard amount, and the actual amount.

“The good news is that our expenses variance for the month was minimal.”

“We are pleased to announce that the expense variance for this month remained minimal.”

Fixed Costs

Costs that take place independently from the level of output or sales.

“With the low sales experienced last two years, we will move to a smaller warehouse to reduce our fixed costs.”

“Due to the lower sales recorded over the past two years, we have decided to relocate to a smaller warehouse in order to optimize our fixed costs.”

Variable Costs

Costs that have direct correlation with the level of output or sales, such as materials and direct labor.

“My Aunt retail store was able to maintain the variable costs while increasing sales.”

“My aunt's retail store successfully maintained variable costs while achieving increased sales.”

To Hire/Recruit

Employ, give employment.

“My company is hiring many new employees.”

To Fire/Dismiss

Terminate employment.

“My company is planning to fire some employees by the end of the month.”