

The Infinitive: To Show Reason or Purpose

FORM:

The infinitive is “to + the base (un-conjugated) form of the verb.”

USE:

The “**infinitive**” often follows a clause (a part of a sentence containing a noun and a verb) to explain why someone or some people take, took or will take the action described in the first clause.

EXAMPLES:

He’s on a diet to lose weight.

The company installed computers to increase productivity.

Complete the sentences with an appropriate INFINITIVE.

1. Pat and Duncan went to New York City _____ the many museums.
2. Steve went to the grocery store _____ some groceries.
3. Camilla works _____ money.
4. Andrew is taking a computer course _____ a better job.
5. Henry is buying some flowers _____ to his girlfriend.
6. Chris is calling the pizzeria _____ a pizza.
7. Put your passport in a safe place in order not _____ it.
8. Make sure you have all the ingredients _____ a cake for the birthday party tonight.

Complete the sentences with an INFINITIVE followed by a short phrase or clause.

1. Amber is updating her resumé _____
2. Mary has started an exercise program _____
3. Nancy is going back to university _____
4. Nick wants the doctor _____
5. Oliver bought a book about computers _____

Intermediate 2 – Exercise 24 – The Infinitive: To Show Reason or Purpose

6. Percy takes vitamins every morning _____
7. Shannon has to stop at the gas station _____
8. Tim called his brother yesterday _____

Write a complete answer to each question. In your answer, use the full INFINITIVE to show the reason or purpose. E.g. Why did you enroll in this course? I enrolled in this course to improve my English.

1. Why did you open the window? _____
2. Why did Mr. and Mrs. Owens go to Florida? _____
3. Why did Jamie go to the bank this morning? _____
4. Why must you and your wife return to Niagara Falls? _____
5. Why did Fred go home early last night? _____
6. Why should we go to that lecture? _____
7. What did the students have to stay late on Friday for? _____
8. Why should we go for a walk after lunch? _____
9. Why are those two boys running so fast? _____
10. What did you go to the post office for? _____
11. Why did you have to go to the dentist today? _____
12. What did Dad go down to the basement for? _____