

Explanations

Purpose • So (that)

We can use *so that* to express purpose (the reason why someone does something). *So that* is usually followed by *can, could, will or would*.

The police locked the door so (that) no-one could get in.

• Infinitive of purpose

We can also use *to* to express purpose. The subject of the main clause and of the purpose clause must be the same.

Jack went to England so that he could study engineering.

Jack went to England to study engineering. (NOT for to study)

If the two subjects are different, we can't use *to*. We have to use *so that*.

Jack went to England so that his brother would have some help working in the restaurant.

- In order to, so as to

These are more formal ways of expressing purpose.

Scientists used only local materials, in order to save money.

There are also negative forms: *in order not to, so as not to*.

The soldiers moved at night, so as not to alarm the villagers.

• For

This describes how something is used.

This button is for starting the engine. This is for the lights.

Result

• So, such a

So is used with an adjective or adverb.

Jim was so tall (that) he hit his head on the ceiling.

Jim drove so quickly (that) they reached the station twenty minutes early.

Such a is used with adjective + singular noun.

Helen is such a busy person (that) she never feels bored.

- So many, so much, so few, so little

So many/few are used with plural nouns. *So much/little* are used with uncountable nouns.

There were so many passengers (that) we couldn't find a seat.

There was so much noise (that) I didn't get to sleep until 3 a.m.

- Too/Not enough + to

Too means *more than is necessary or good*. *Not enough* means *less than is necessary or good*. They can both be used with an adjective + *to*. Compare:

The bookcase was too big to get down the stairs.

The bookcase was not small enough to get down the stairs.

Contrast

- *Although, though, even though*

Although often becomes *though* in speech. *Though* can come at the end of a sentence, *although* cannot.

Although I asked her, she didn't come. (speech and writing)

Though I asked her, she didn't come. (speech)

I asked her, (but) she didn't come, though. (speech)

Even though gives a stronger contrast than *although*.

Even though I asked her, she didn't come. (which was really surprising)

- *While, whereas*

While and *whereas* are used in formal speech and writing. They compare two facts and emphasize the difference between them.

While United were fast and accurate, City were slow and careless.

- *However, nevertheless*

However is a way of expressing contrast in formal speech or writing. It can go at the beginning, middle or end of the sentence, and is separated by a comma (or a pause in speech).

Normally we don't refund money without a receipt. However, on this occasion I'll do it.

Normally we don't refund money without a receipt.

On this occasion, however, I'll do it.

Nevertheless is a very formal way of expressing *however*.

I'm not happy with your work. Nevertheless, I'm going to give you one last chance.

- *Despite and in spite of*

These expressions are followed by a noun (including the *-ing* form used as a noun, and not by a clause (subject + verb).

In spite of the rain, we went out. (Although it was raining, we went out.)

Despite losing, we celebrated. (Although we lost, we celebrated.)