

What is your purpose for doing that? Explore the two ways to say that in English! – by S.K. Meyer

What is your purpose for doing something? We have two ways to express that in English, and they mean different things (even if sometimes it's subtle)!

Look carefully at these two pictures, and choose the best answer.

We took the little train because...



She put herself in the cage...



... it was too hot for walking.

... for highlighting poor animal conditions.

... it was too hot to walk.

... to highlight poor animal conditions.

Do this before going ahead! (ALL photos: copyright S.K. Meyer)

“We went to the pub for chatting with friends.”

“We went to the pub to pay our bill.”

Both of these sentences say that you went to the pub, so to express purpose why does one use the infinitive with “to” while the other uses “for” and the -ing form?

One emphasizes the ONGOING ACTION as the purpose, the other emphasizes the END RESULT as the goal. Choose:

- 1) “For + -ing form” expresses the... ____ ONGOING ACTION ____ END RESULT
- 2) “Infinitive with to” expresses the... ____ ONGOING ACTION ____ END RESULT
- 3) There’s a clue in the “for + -ing form” option. Use the pull-down menu, and choose:

infinitive with “to”
or
“for” + -ing form

Can you choose? -- Sometimes the situation is more logical with one than the other, but, yes, sometimes you can choose depending on what you want to emphasize!

What is your purpose for doing that? Explore the two ways to say that in English! – by S.K. Meyer

4) If you choose the “for + -ing form” in this one, what do you want to emphasize?

“She uses her app for checking her flight instead of checking the board.”

Use the pull-down menu and choose the right answer:

5) If you choose the “infinitive with to” in this one, what do you want to emphasize?

“She uses her cell phone to check her flight.” Use the pull-down menu & choose:



6) Which is correct? “This sculpture is great...

a) ____ ... for taking fun pictures.”

b) ____ ... to take fun pictures.”

c) ____ (both are correct, depending on your emphasis)

What is your purpose for doing that? Explore the two ways to say that in English! – by S.K. Meyer

7) Which is correct? “If you want _____ this 1997 sculpture of “Man at Work” by Viktor Hulik, you have to go to Bratislava, Slovakia.

a) ____ to see

b) ____ for seeing



8) Why?! (DON’T PEEK, FIRST! ☺) Use the pull-down menu to choose:



9) “_____ this tavern sign in Dürnstein, Austria, you need a little bit of luck.”

a) ____ “For seeing...”

b) ____ “To see...”

c) ____ (both are correct, depending on your emphasis)

What is your purpose for doing that? Explore the two ways to say that in English! – by S.K. Meyer

So, how did you do with the two ways to express purpose in English and the two different meanings?! Try these two, again!

Look carefully at these two pictures, and choose the best answer.

We took the little train because...



She put herself in the cage...



... it was too hot for walking.

... for highlighting poor animal conditions.

... it was too hot to walk.

... to highlight poor animal conditions.

(ALL photos: copyright S.K. Meyer)