

FOR & TO-Inf. PURPOSE AND CAUSE

1. PEOPLE’S PURPOSES

- *FOR* + <-ing> can be used to talk about someone’s purpose, but only when it is followed by a noun phrase (NP).

We stopped at the pub for a drink.

- *FOR* is not used before a verb in this sense. The infinitive alone is used to express a person’s purpose.

We stopped at the pub to have a drink. (NOT ... ~~for having a drink~~).

2. THE PURPOSES OF THINGS

- *FOR* can be used before the <-ing> form of a verb to express the “purpose” of a thing – what it is used for – especially when the thing is the subject.

Is that cake for eating or just for looking at?

- When the clause has a person as subject, an infinitive is often used to express the “purpose” of a thing.

We use altimeters to measure height above sea level.

3. CAUSES OF REACTIONS

- *FOR* + <-ing> can also be used after a description of a reaction, to explain the behaviour that caused it.

They punished the child for lying.

He was sent to prison for stealing.