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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## **Clauses**

### CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

# EXPLANATION

- **CLAUSES OF PURPOSE** are used to explain the reason why we do something.
- We often want to explain our reasons/purpose when speaking, so these clauses can be useful in the IELTS Speaking Test.
- In the IELTS Writing Test, these clauses make sentences complex. They are incredibly useful in IELTS Writing Task 2.
- **CLAUSES OF PURPOSE** are often found in more complex reading passages such as the IELTS Academic Reading Test.
- We can use **infinitives, for + gerund, in order to** and **so as to** when we want to express purpose.
- Often **the subject in the main clause and the subject in the clause of purpose are the same.**

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

We usually use an infinitive to express purpose:

- I went abroad **to study** English.
- We need to work hard **to solve** this problem.
- We should increase international aid **to cut** poverty.
- The government ought to train teachers better **to improve** standards in school.
- I'll do everything I can **to help**.
- I am writing **to apply** for the job recently advertised on your website.
- I am writing **to thank** you for all the help you have given me recently.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

We usually use an infinitive to express purpose:

- We bought the model plane **to cheer up** our grandson, who has been ill recently.
- We need to gather together experts **to discuss** the matter and hopefully find appropriate solutions.
- I want to lose weight **to be able to** go running with the children.
- We went on holiday **to wind down** and **recharge** our batteries.
- I want to be an expert at judo **to become** more self-confident.
- Parents sometimes smack their children **to make** them understand that a certain way of behaving is wrong.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

We can use an infinitive with a noun (or noun phrase) and a preposition to describe a particular purpose:

- The government has built a large prison **to keep more than a thousand convicts in.**
- I have brought my laptop **to take notes with/on.**
- We have a small table **to keep flowers and ornaments on.**
- You need a bigger desk **to put the computer on.**
- We are thinking of buying a special machine **to dry our clothes with.**

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

When we want to describe a general purpose, we use **for** and a gerund:

- Governments have built large prisons **for keeping thousands of convicts (in)**.
- Students often take their laptop to classes **for taking notes (with)**.
- Some people have a small table in their living-room **for keeping flowers and ornaments (on)**.
- Lots of people buy special machine **for drying clothes (with)**.
- Many modern trains have luxurious compartments **for relaxing in**, with windows **for looking out of**.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

After the imperative form of **go/come** we usually use **and** with a second imperative instead of an infinitive of purpose:

- **Go and see** what you can find.
- She told me to **go away and work it out** for myself.
- **Come and see** for yourself.
- **Come and join** us on Saturday at the demonstration.
- She told us to **come and watch** the game.
- **Go and tell** your brother he needs to come home.



# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

After the imperative form of **go/come** we usually use **and** with a second imperative instead of an infinitive of purpose:

- **Go and ask** what they want for lunch.
- I must **go and find out** what has happened.
- Many students **go and work** abroad for a year after finishing school.
- I'm going to **come and tell** you all about it.
- I really hope you will **come and help**. We could use as much support as possible.
- You could **come and dance** or just **come and watch**.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

We can use **so as + infinitive** or **in order + infinitive** to show that the speaker wants the action to happen. Both structures are usually possible. We often use these structures with negative infinitives:

- I got back home after midnight but I was really quiet **so as not to disturb** anyone.
- I go swimming regularly **so as not to get** fat and unhealthy.
- I didn't tell her what you said **so as not to upset** her.
- We must tackle the environmental crisis **in order not to leave** a terrible mess for future generations.
- We all need to drive carefully **in order not to cause** serious accidents.

**(in all of these sentences, both structures are correct)**

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

We often use these structures with **to be** and **to have**:

- I went to university **in order to be** better-qualified and **in order to have** more opportunities to get a well-paid job.
- Some people get married young **in order to have** lots of children. They sometimes go on part-time courses **in order to be** good parents.
- She retired early **so as to have** more time to spend with her grandchildren and **so as to be** freer to help her children.
- I have decided to leave my job in advertising **so as to have** more time for writing.

(in all of these sentences, both structures are correct)

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

We often use these structures with **to become** and **to get**:

- She went on a special course **so as to get** more experience.
- He took a course at college **in order to become** a plumber.

We often use these structures when the purpose is not immediate or short-term:

- We moved to Finland **in order to have** a healthier life.
- I go to the gym a couple of times a week **so as to improve** my general fitness and avoid illness in later life.
- I have become vegetarian **so as to help** save the planet.
- (in all of these sentences, both structures are correct)

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

We use these structures when there is a subject and an object and we want to make it completely clear that the infinitive of purpose is connected to the subject:

- **She** worked for her father **in order to gain** experience. (= because she wanted to gain experience)
- **I** gave him the money **in order to help** him. (= because I wanted to help him)
- **I** taught him English **so as to understand** him properly. (= because I wanted to understand him)
- **He** found a teacher **so as to learn** how to use the internet. (= because he wanted to learn how to use the internet)

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE

It is normal to put the clause of purpose after the main subject and verb but it can go before. It is common to separate the clauses with a comma in this case:

- **To solve the problem,** we must act quickly.
- **To understand another language fully,** you probably have to live in a country where it is spoken.
- **In order to cut carbon emissions,** we need to radically re-think our approach.
- **So as to stop youngsters from becoming criminals,** we should force them to stay in education, get a job or join the armed forces.



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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## Clauses

### CLAUSES OF PURPOSE WITH DIFFERENT SUBJECTS

# EXPLANATION

- **CLAUSES OF PURPOSE** are used to explain the reason why we do something.
- We often want to explain our reasons/purpose when speaking so these clauses can be useful in the IELTS Speaking Test.
- In the IELTS Writing Test, these clauses make our sentences complex. They are incredibly useful in IELTS Writing Task 2.
- **CLAUSES OF PURPOSE** are very often found in more complex reading passages such as the IELTS Academic reading Test.
- Often **the subjects of the main clause and the subject of the CLAUSE OF PURPOSE are different**. In this case we often use **so that**

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE WITH DIFFERENT SUBJECTS

We usually use a clause beginning with **so that**. We can follow this with **will + infinitive** when the main verb is in a present simple, future or present perfect tense:

- I always **leave** notes for my boss **so that** she **will remember** to do things.
- I **am going to leave** / **will leave** the windows open **so that** more air **will get** into the room.
- I **have left** you some money on the table **so that** you **will be able to** buy lunch.
- I **have been doing** overtime at work **so that** we **will have** enough money to go on holiday next month.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE WITH DIFFERENT SUBJECTS

We usually use a clause beginning with **so that**. We can follow this with **can + infinitive** when the main verb is in a present simple, future or present perfect tense. We do this to describe ability or possibility:

- Parents often **save** large amounts of money **so that** their children **can have** a decent education.
- The government **needs to** develop infrastructure **so that** the economy **can grow** quickly.
- I **will move** my car **so that** you **can park** yours outside the house.
- I'm **going to leave** pizza in the oven **so that** you **can have** some later.
- I've **left** plenty of ingredients in the fridge and cupboards **so that** you **can cook** something when you arrive.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE WITH DIFFERENT SUBJECTS

We usually use a clause beginning with **so that**. We can follow this with **would + infinitive** when the main verb is in the past:

- The authorities **made** changes to the lay-out of the building **so that** wheelchair-users **would find** it easier to access.
- We **planted** more trees **so that** visitors walking in the park **would get** a feeling of peace and tranquillity.
- I **shouted** at you **so that** you **would realise** how serious the situation is.
- I **persuaded** my boyfriend to learn a few Japanese words **so that** he **would understand** and be able to communicate when we go to Osaka.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE WITH DIFFERENT SUBJECTS

We usually use a clause beginning with **so that**. We can follow this with **would + infinitive** when the main verb is in the past:

- Many say that they **fought** in the war **so that** their children and grandchildren **would be** free.
- I **brought** you some chocolate **so that** you **wouldn't be** hungry.
- I **was trying** to do the painting quickly **so that** it **would be finished** when you got home. (This sentence includes a passive form)
- I **used to work** hard **so that** my teachers **would like** me.
- I **had** already **checked** that everything was working properly **so that** my boss **wouldn't get** annoyed, as he usually does.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE WITH DIFFERENT SUBJECTS

We usually use a clause beginning with **so that**. We can follow this with **could + infinitive** when the main verb is in the past. We do this to describe ability or possibility:

- My parents **made** sure that I **knew** several languages **so that** I **could live** abroad if I wanted to.
- I **rented** that movie you **were talking** about **so that** we **could watch** it together this evening.
- I deliberately **left** the box of matches on the top shelf **so that** the baby **couldn't play** with them.
- I **used to buy** extra sweets **so that** you **could have** some.
- We **were thinking** of buying a house with a garden **so that** the dog **could run** around in it and get exercise.



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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## Clauses

### CLAUSES OF PURPOSE WITH OTHER STRUCTURES

# EXPLANATION

- **CLAUSES OF PURPOSE** are used to explain the reason why we do something.
- We often want to explain our reasons/purpose when speaking so these clauses can be useful in the IELTS Speaking Test.
- In the IELTS Writing Test, these clauses make our sentences complex. They are incredibly useful in IELTS Writing Task 2.
- **CLAUSES OF PURPOSE** are very often found in more complex reading passages such as the IELTS Academic Reading Test.
- **Other structures** can be used with **CLAUSES OF PURPOSE** to impress the IELTS examiner.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE: OTHER COMPLEX STRUCTURES

It is common to use **so that** with **don't have/need to** (with main verbs in the present simple, present perfect or simple future) and **didn't have/need to** (with main verbs in the past) when we want to describe a lack of necessity or obligation:

- I'll **leave** the key under the doormat **so that** you **don't have/need to wait** for me.
- I've **texted** him **so that** you **don't have/need to bother**.
- We **got** there early **so that** we **didn't have/need to queue**.
- The government **used to give** severely disabled people a state benefit **so that** they **didn't have/need to work**.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE: OTHER COMPLEX STRUCTURES

We can use **so that** with **might** to express a possibility:

- I look out of the window every morning **so that** I **might see** the postman passing.
- I eat plenty of salad **so that** I **might be** as healthy as possible.
- I took a course in social media last year **so that** I **might keep** in touch with my son in New Zealand.
- I got a dog last year **so that** I **might get out** and do more exercise.
- Statues of great leaders are erected **so that** future generations **might understand** how important they were.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE: OTHER COMPLEX STRUCTURES

We can use the structure **in order that + might**. This structure is very formal. The meaning is similar to **so that + will/would**:

- We need to give young offenders a job **in order that** they **might learn** to be productive citizens.
- I give my grandson a small amount of money each week **in order that** he **might realise** how to spend and save wisely.
- Some schools ask students to wear uniforms **in order that** they **might develop** a sense of community and togetherness.
- The government tries to consult widely **in order that** different opinions **might be heard** before a decision is made. (This sentence includes a passive form)

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE: OTHER COMPLEX STRUCTURES

We can use negative clauses of purpose:

- I'm afraid I've lied to him **so that** he **won't come**.
- Many criminals use fake identities **so that** the police **can't catch** them.
- I told you about the money **so that** you **wouldn't get** angry.
- I sent the message by text rather than email **so that** he **couldn't see** it.
- The sign was erected **so that** children **might read** it and **might not feed** the animals.

# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE: OTHER COMPLEX STRUCTURES

Negative clauses of purpose can often be avoided:

- I'm afraid I've lied **to stop/prevent** him from coming.
- I told you about the money **to stop/prevent** you from getting angry.
- I sent the message by text **to stop/prevent** him from seeing it.
- The sign was erected **to stop/prevent** children from feeding the animals.
- Many criminals use fake identities **to stop/prevent** the police from catching them.
- Many criminals use fake identities **to prevent** themselves from being caught.
- Many criminals use fake identities **to avoid** being caught.



# CLAUSES OF PURPOSE: OTHER COMPLEX STRUCTURES

We can use **in case** with a clause which describes a possible future action. This clause usually follows a clause which describes a precaution or way of avoiding this possible future action:

- **We should take an umbrella in case it rains.**
- **The police should monitor criminals who are released from prison in case they show signs of re-offending.**
- **When I went for my job interview, I took a portfolio of my work in case they wanted to see it.**
- **If somebody offered me a job in New York, I would definitely want to sign a proper contract before leaving in case they weren't genuine.**



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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## Clauses

### CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

# EXPLANATION

- **CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON** are used to explain causal relationships.
- We often want to explain why something happens when speaking, so **CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON** are useful in the IELTS Speaking Test.
- If we use these clauses in the IELTS Writing Test, they make sentences complex. These clauses are incredibly useful in IELTS Writing Task 2.
- **CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON** are often found in more complex Reading passages such as the IELTS Academic Reading Test.

# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

We can introduce clauses of reason with **as** and **since**. We usually use these conjunctions when the reader/listener already knows the reason:

- **As there is so much poverty**, those of us with more money should pay higher taxes to help those in need.
- **As he has apologised**, I would rather forget all about the matter.
- **Since the number of fatal accidents is on the rise**, governments should definitely reduce the speed limit.
- **Since the cost of living is going up**, poorer people are having to cut back on essentials like food and heating.

# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

It is possible to use **because** in clauses of reason. We usually use this conjunction when the reader/listener does not know the reason:

- **Because he asked me so nicely,** I agreed to help him.
- **Because we received such shoddy service,** we have decided not to pay the bill in full.
- Most people commit crimes **because they are desperate,** and not **because they are evil.**
- I was angry **because I had never seen such appalling behaviour.**

# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

If this clause of reason starts the sentence, the clause ends with a comma:

- **As the number of migrants has risen,** there has been a fall in the amount of available housing.
- **As we arrived early,** we decided to have a look around the city.
- **Because many people have become concerned about the amount of time children spend online,** scientists have carried out research into whether spending time on the internet is actually harmful to a young person's health.
- **Since my new job doesn't start for a couple of weeks,** I thought I might get a flight over to Dublin and come and visit you.



# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

If this clause of reason starts the sentence, the clause ends with a comma:

- **As adults eat far too much fatty food,** they are likely to suffer from diabetes.
- **As life in the countryside tends to be so difficult,** many decide to move to the city.
- **Since English is so widespread,** it would make sense to use it as a common international language.
- **Because I hated my old job as a banker so much,** I decided to become a children's entertainer.

# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

If the clause containing the reason goes after the main clause, there isn't usually a comma between the two clauses:

- Many students take a gap-year before going to university **because they want to travel around the world.**
- It is possible that average temperatures are climbing **because there is so much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.**
- Some young adults have to live with their parents **as they simply cannot afford to buy a place of their own.**
- Many employees bring their own lunch to work **since it is a great deal cheaper than buying ready-made food from shops.**

# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

If the clause containing the reason goes after the main clause, there isn't usually a comma between the two clauses:

- I found my new job quite difficult at first **as I had never worked in such a high-pressure environment.**
- Many school-leavers struggle to get a decent job **as they lack the basic skills which employers are looking for.**
- I went home **because it was getting too crowded in the bar.**
- Many individuals decide not to participate in elections **because they feel that their vote cannot make any difference to the way the country is governed.**

# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

**For** can be used in a very formal way. It connects two clauses so cannot go at the beginning of a sentence. It usually follows a comma:

- It would make sense for the authorities to offer financial incentives to adults to eat more healthily and increase the amount of exercise they do, **for there is a proven link between lifestyle and the development of certain life-threatening diseases.**
- It is necessary to wear protective clothing when touching the frog, **for its venom has the power to kill a human being.**
- Factories need to be re-located well away from urban areas, **for they pollute the air and cause respiratory illnesses to the vulnerable.**

# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

**Seeing as** and **seeing that** can be used to introduce a reason for what you say or write. These structures are usually used in quite informal English. Either clause can go first and the two clauses are usually separated by a comma:

- **Seeing as/that you asked nicely,** you can have some cake.
- **Seeing as/that he's one of the family,** I suppose we'd better invite him.
- **Seeing as/that I had spent all night preparing for the exam,** I was furious to find it had been cancelled.
- I took my coat, **seeing as the weather forecast was so bad.**

# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

**In that** and **insomuch as** add detail so that what is in the main clause makes more sense or can be understood more easily:

- The economy of the country is unusual **in that the service sector accounts for almost ninety percent of GDP.** (= It is because the service sector is so strong that the economy is unusual)
- I found the essay relatively easy **inasmuch as it was on a topic I had revised very well.** (= It is because I knew the topic that I found the essay easy)

# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

We can introduce reasons with **that**, especially when we want to describe reasons for our feelings:

- I am pleased **that** you passed your exam.
- I am furious **that** we missed the train.
- We were all delighted **that** everyone was rescued alive.
- I'm so sorry **that** you couldn't come.
- It pleased/delighted me **that** you worked so hard.

# CLAUSES OF CAUSE AND REASON

We can use prepositions followed by a noun phrase to introduce a reason:

- **Owing to the lack of political will**, no action has been taken.
- **Because of the bad weather**, the match was cancelled.
- **Because of the traffic jam**, I was late arriving.
- I resigned **on account of the fact that I was being bullied**.
- She failed to get the job **due to her poor performance at interview**.
- I moved to a new flat **due to the fact that it was taking me more than an hour to get to work each morning**.
- **Thanks to her help**, I passed.





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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## **Clauses**

### CLAUSES OF RESULT

# EXPLANATION

- **CLAUSES OF RESULT** are used to explain causal relationships (causes and effects)
- We often want to explain the result of something when speaking, so these clauses are useful in the IELTS Speaking Test.
- If we use **CLAUSES OF RESULT** in the IELTS Writing Test, they make our sentences more complex. These clauses are incredibly useful in IELTS Writing Task 2.
- **CLAUSES OF RESULT** are very often found in more complex reading passages such as the IELTS Academic Reading Test.

# CLAUSES OF RESULT

We can use **so** to introduce a clause which contains a result. This word is often used quite informally:

- The cost of taking a foreign holiday has risen **so many families have decided to stay at home this year.**
- I heavily criticised my boss during the meeting **so he fired me.**
- We hadn't taken our umbrellas **so we got extremely wet.**
- I have plenty of time next week **so I should be able to help you.**
- It was absolutely freezing **so I took my jacket.**

# CLAUSES OF **RESULT**

It is common to use **therefore** in formal writing to introduce a result:

- Building more coal-fired power-stations would be disastrous from an environmental perspective. **Therefore, the government has decided to focus on renewable energy.**
- The service offered at your conference venue was sub-standard. **We have therefore decided to ask for a partial refund.**
- We were very impressed by your performance at interview. **We are therefore extremely happy to offer you the position of Marketing Manager.**
- Many museums do not charge members of the public to enter; **therefore, even poorer people can enjoy great works of art.**

# CLAUSES OF RESULT

We can start a sentence or clause with the reason/reasons (why). This lets us introduce a result and a reason:

- The reason (why) I came was that I thought you needed some help.
- The reason (why) so many people migrate is that economic conditions in their own countries are so poor.
- Many people wrongly believe that the reason (why) temperatures are higher in summer is that the sun is closer to our planet.
- The reasons (why) we continue to damage the planet when we understand the ecological crisis are connected to our greed and stupidity.

# CLAUSES OF RESULT

We can use **such + adjective + noun + that** to introduce clauses of result:

- We had **such a great holiday** that **we have already booked to go back to the same resort next year.**
- I had **such a difficult experience at the airport** that **I doubt I will ever fly again.**
- She is **such a horrible boss** that **nobody wants to work for her.**
- The politician spoke for **such a long time** that **most people completely lost interest in what she was saying.**



# CLAUSES OF RESULT

We can use **so + adverb + that** or **so + adjective (without noun) + that** to introduce clauses of result:

- The bus was **so late that** we decided to walk.
- She was speaking for **so long that** most of the audience fell asleep or lost the will to live!
- He was **so angry that** I just left immediately.
- The weather is **so hot today that** those in their seventies, eighties and nineties have been warned about the dangers of going outside.

# CLAUSES OF RESULT

We can use **so + much/many + noun + that** to introduce clauses of result:

- There were **so many people on the train that we had to sit on the floor.**
- There are **so many obstacles to building a fair society that most political leaders prefer not to try.**
- There is **so much rubbish on our streets that I am ashamed to invite friends to come and visit.**
- There is **so much rubbish on television that I practically never turn it on.**



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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## **Clauses**

### CLAUSES OF CONCESSION

# EXPLANATION

- We use **CLAUSES OF CONCESSION** when we want to include information which contrasts with the main idea in the **MAIN CLAUSE** but which does not make the main idea wrong.
- We often want to contrast two ideas in this way when speaking, so these clauses can be useful in the IELTS Speaking Test.
- If we use these **CLAUSES OF CONCESSION** in the IELTS Writing Test, they make our sentences complex. They are very useful in IELTS Writing Task 2.
- **CLAUSES OF CONCESSION** are often found in more complex reading passages such as the IELTS Academic Reading Test.

# CLAUSES OF CONCESSION

We can often use **even though, although, though or even if** with these clauses. When the clause of concession comes first, it is followed by a comma:

- **Even though increasing the price of airline tickets would be very unpopular,** this strategy could help tackle global warming.
- **Although I had never previously eaten anything which looked so disgusting,** I actually really enjoyed it.
- **Though I wouldn't recommend caving to everyone,** it was certainly an exhilarating and unforgettable experience.
- **Even if I try harder,** I don't think I will be able to get into a top-ranking university.

# CLAUSES OF CONCESSION

We can often use **even though**, **although**, **though** or **even if** with these clauses. When the clause of concession comes after the main clause, the clauses are not usually separated by a comma:

- I believed him **even though** **he had lied before.**
- I've never run a marathon **although** **I have always wanted to (run one).**
- I invited him to the party **though** **I doubt whether he will come.**
- I wouldn't believe you **even if** **you promised that you were telling the truth.**



# CLAUSES OF CONCESSION

When the clause of concession goes first, it is sometimes possible to leave out the subject and verb. This usually happens with the verb **to be** (or a linking verb) and when both clauses have the same subject:

- **Although (it is) controversial**, the suggestion that all zoos should be closed down has some famous advocates.
- **Though (it is) dangerous**, mountaineering is one of the most exhilarating and rewarding things a person can do.
- **Even though (it is/seems/appears/looks) difficult to understand**, cricket is fun.
- **Even if/though (it is/seems/appears) a bit unusual**, this type of pet is becoming more common.

# CLAUSES OF CONCESSION

it is sometimes possible to start the clause with **adjective + as**:

- **Inexperienced as** I was, I understood the need for accuracy. (= Even though I was inexperienced,...)
- **Tired as** we were, we continued working (= Even though we were tired,...)
- **Strange as** it seems, I actually enjoy my job (= Even though it seems strange,...)
- **Ridiculous as** it might appear, studies suggest that increasing the number of surveillance cameras on a street can actually lead to more crimes being committed there (= Even though it might appear (to be) ridiculous,...)

# CLAUSES OF CONCESSION

We can use **no matter** (followed by a clause beginning with a question word) to indicate that something will/should not have an effect:

- **No matter how much they try to persuade you**, don't buy anything.
- **No matter how many cakes he eats**, he never seems to put on weight.
- **No matter what happens**, keep in touch.
- **No matter where The Olympics are held**, they always seem to be a tremendous success.
- **No matter when you arrive**, we will be pleased to see you.

# CLAUSES OF CONCESSION

We can use **whatever, whenever, wherever, whoever, whichever, however** etc. to indicate that all possibilities are the same:

- **Whatever you say**, they are unlikely to believe you.
- **Whenever you arrive**, the airport will be packed.
- **Wherever you look**, accommodation will be expensive.
- **Whoever you decide to do your project with**, you will find it easier than completing it on your own.
- **Whichever course you apply for**, you will have to go for an interview.
- **However you travel there**, it will be a long and arduous journey.

# CLAUSES OF CONCESSION

We can use **however** with adjectives, adverbs, **many/much**:

- **However difficult it is**, you need to keep going.
- **However big the problem is**, there will always be a way of dealing with it.
- **However hard you try**, he probably won't be satisfied.
- **However carefully you do it**, you'll probably break something.
- **However many people annoy you**, try not to show it.
- **However much you want to succeed**, you will certainly need a bit of luck.



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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## **Clauses**

### CLAUSES OF TIME



# EXPLANATION

- **TIME CLAUSES** can give extra information.
- We often want to include **TIME CLAUSES** when speaking, so they can be useful in the IELTS Speaking Test.
- If we use **TIME CLAUSES** in the IELTS Writing Test, they make our sentences more complex. These clauses are incredibly useful in IELTS Writing Task 2 and sometimes used in Writing Task 1.
- **TIME CLAUSES** are very often found in more complex reading passages such as the IELTS Academic Reading Test.
- They are also very common in the IELTS Listening Test. Understanding them can be vital to answering questions correctly.

# TIME CLAUSES

We can use time clauses with several different conjunctions:

- **After** **the metal is melted**, it is poured into special jugs.
- **Before** **the sun rises**, a lot of work has already been done.
- **As soon as / Once** **the temperature reaches a certain level**, an alarm sounds.
- **The second/moment/minute** **I've finished**, I'll let you know.
- **No sooner** **had I got into the building** **than** the phone rang.
- **Till** **the hurricane has passed**, we cannot assess the damage.
- I won't do anything **until** **you come**.
- **As long as** **nobody cares**, nothing will change.

# TIME CLAUSES

We can use time clauses with several different conjunctions:

- You can come **whenever you want**.
- **When/Whenever** trains and buses are delayed or cancelled, passengers understandably get annoyed.
- The film had hardly/scarcely begun **when I got your text**.
- **Ever since you came here**, you have been complaining.
- **Since the day he arrived**, we have had nothing but trouble.
- **While/When/At the same time as I was having a shower**, the hot water stopped working.
- **The sooner it rains**, the happier I will be.

# TIME CLAUSES

Usually, if the time clause goes at the beginning of the sentence, it is followed by a comma:

- **Before the smartphone was invented,** communication was far more limited.
- **As soon as I started working there,** I realised that taking the job had been a terrible mistake.
- **When students arrive for their first day of classes,** they are given a brief introduction to the college.
- **Whenever it snows,** I just go outside and build a snowman.
- **Until the government takes the matter seriously,** a solution seems unlikely.

# TIME CLAUSES

We do not usually use future forms in time clauses:

- **As soon as** you **arrive**, we will start (**NOT: As soon as you will arrive,...**)
- **When** the train **stops**, we'll have a drink (**NOT: When the train will stop,...**)
- **Before** they **set off**, they will say goodbye (**NOT: Before they will set off...; NOT: Before they are going to set off,...**)
- **While** you **are sitting** on that beach sunning yourself, think of me (**NOT: While you will be sitting on that beach,...**)

# TIME CLAUSES

Other tenses change in time expressions. The future perfect changes to the present perfect:

- I **will have finished** my work in a few minutes. **As soon as** I **have done** it, I will let you know.
- I **will have completed** my course by the end of September. **When** I **have finished** my course, I will start applying for jobs.
- She **will have resigned** by the time you get back. You need to talk to her **before** she **has sent** that email.

Conditional tenses change to past tenses:

- She **would tell** you. However, **as soon as** she **told** you, you would get angry and start shouting.

# TIME CLAUSES

When we use a clause beginning with **since** or **ever since**, the verb in the main clause is usually in the perfect form:

- **Since** I moved to Paris, my French **has** really **improved**.
- **Since** I was diagnosed with cancer, my whole perspective on life **has changed** dramatically.
- I **have been** on several business trips **since** I got this job.
- She **has been working** for the company **ever since** she graduated.
- I **have been fascinated** by planes **ever since** I was a child.

# TIME CLAUSES

**After** and **when** are often followed by a perfect tense in a time clause:

- **After/When** you **have completed** your course, I hope we will be able to meet up for lunch.
- **After/When** I **have been discharged** from hospital, I will spend some time at home recuperating.
- **After/When** we **had finished** talking, I realised that you didn't know that the company plans to close most of its offices in Sri Lanka.
- **After having eaten** so much, I needed a lie down.
- **After having considered** the arguments, I have reached the conclusion that school uniforms have a positive effect. (**After eating/considering** can also be used)





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**P**repare for {IELTS}

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Re-write the following sentences with an infinitive clause of purpose:

EXAMPLE:

I went to The UK because I wanted to study English.

ANSWER: I went to The UK to study English.

1. We need to work hard because we want to solve this problem
2. We need to do everything we can because we want to help
3. We all have to meet because we want to discuss the issue in depth.
4. I have brought my computer because I need it to take notes with
5. I ordered the flowers because I wanted to cheer you up

ANSWERS

1. We need to work hard **to solve** this problem
2. We need to do everything we can **to help**
3. We all have to meet **to discuss** the issue in depth
4. I have brought my computer **to take** notes with
5. I ordered the flowers **to cheer** you up

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Complete the following sentences which include a clause of purpose:

1. I must go a \_\_\_\_\_ find out what has happened.
2. You could come a \_\_\_\_\_ dance or just come a \_\_\_\_\_ watch if you prefer.
3. I retired early s \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ to have more time to help to look after my grandchildren.
4. You need to listen carefully i \_\_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_\_ t \_\_\_\_\_ understand the instructions fully.
5. We must tackle the problem of global warming i \_\_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_\_ n \_\_\_\_\_ to leave a terrible mess for future generations.
6. I didn't tell her what you said s \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ n \_\_\_\_\_ to upset or annoy her.

### ANSWERS

1. I must go **and** find out what has happened.
2. You could come **and** dance or just come **and** watch if you prefer.
3. I retired early **so as** to have more time to help to look after my grandchildren.
4. You need to listen careful **in order to** understand the instructions fully.
5. We must tackle the problem of global warming **in order not** to leave a terrible mess for future generations.
6. I didn't tell her what you said **so as not** to upset or annoy her.

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Complete the following sentences which include a clause of purpose:

1. I have left the computer on s\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ you will be able to use it when you get back.
2. She has been doing extra work s\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ we will have enough money for our holiday.
3. In the past, campaigners fought hard s\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ future generations w\_\_\_\_\_ benefit.
4. I decided to learn a bit of Korean s\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ people w\_\_\_\_\_ understand me when I went to Seoul.
5. I used to work hard at school s\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ my teachers w\_\_\_\_\_ like me and give me good grades.
6. Governments around the world need to focus on developing infrastructure s\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ the global economy c\_\_\_\_\_ grow.

### ANSWERS

1. I have left the computer on **so that** you will be able to use it when you get back.
2. She has been doing extra work **so that** we will have enough money for our holiday.
3. In the past, campaigners fought hard **so that** future generations would benefit.
4. I decided to learn a bit of Korean **so that** people **would** understand me when I went to Seoul.
5. I used to work hard at school **so that** my teachers **would** like me and give me good grades.
6. Governments around the world need to focus on developing infrastructure **so that** the global economy **can** grow.

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Complete the following sentences which include a clause of purpose:

1. I've texted her so that you d\_\_\_\_\_ need to.
2. We got there early so that we d\_\_\_\_\_ need to stand in a queue.
3. We took our children to lots of concerts so that they m\_\_\_\_\_ begin to appreciate music and feel inspired to take up an instrument.
4. We give our children some money every week i\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_\_ that they m\_\_\_\_\_ learn how to manage money.
5. I told you what had happened so that you w\_\_\_\_\_ be surprised later.
6. Armed soldiers stand at the border to p\_\_\_\_\_ people from crossing illegally.
7. Many criminals use fake passports to s\_\_\_\_\_ the police from identifying and catching them.
8. We should take a hat i\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_ the sun comes out.

### ANSWERS

1. I've texted her so that you **don't** need to.
2. We got there early so that we **didn't** need to stand in a queue.
3. We took our children to lots of concerts so that they **might** begin to appreciate music and feel inspired to take up an instrument.
4. We give our children some money every week **in order** that they **might** learn how to manage money.
5. I told you what had happened so that you **wouldn't** be surprised later.
6. Armed soldiers stand at the border to **prevent** people from crossing illegally.
7. Many criminals use fake passports to **stop** the police from identifying and catching them.
8. We should take a hat **in case** the sun comes out.

## **PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises**

Try to match a clause from LIST A with a clause from LIST B to make sentences with clauses of cause/reason:

### **LIST A**

1. As the number of migrants has risen,
2. As we arrived early,
3. Because many people have become concerned about the amount of time children spend online,
4. Since my new job doesn't start for a couple of weeks,

### **LIST B**

1. I though I might get a flight over to Dublin and come and visit you.
2. we decided to have a look around the city.
3. scientists have carried out research into whether spending time on the internet is actually harmful to a young person's health.
4. there has been a fall in the amount of available housing.

### **ANSWERS**

1. As the number of migrants has risen, there has been a fall in the amount of available housing.
2. As we arrived early, we decided to have a look around the city.
3. Because many people have become concerned about the amount of time children spend online, scientists have carried out research into whether spending time on the internet is actually harmful to a young person's health.
4. Since my new job doesn't start for a couple of weeks, I though I might get a flight over to Dublin and come and visit you.

## **PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises**

Try to match a clause from LIST A with a clause from LIST B to make sentences with clauses of cause/reason:

### **LIST A**

1. Many students take a gap-year before going to university
2. It is possible that average temperatures are climbing
3. Some young adults have to live with their parents
4. Many employees bring their own lunch to work

### **LIST B**

1. as they simply cannot afford to buy a place of their own.
2. since it is a great deal cheaper than buying ready-made food from shops.
3. because they want to travel around the world.
4. because there is so much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

### **ANSWERS**

1. Many students take a gap-year before going to university because they want to travel around the world.
2. It is possible that average temperatures are climbing because there is so much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
3. Some young adults have to live with their parents as they simply cannot afford to buy a place of their own.
4. Many employees bring their own lunch to work since it is a great deal cheaper than buying ready-made food from shops.

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Complete the following sentences which include clauses of cause and reason:

1. Young children need to be watched constantly, f \_\_\_\_\_ they can easily get into dangerous places.
2. We need to understand how technology affects us both positively and negatively, f \_\_\_\_\_ it is becoming a key part of most people's lives.
3. S \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ you always help me, I am happy to lend you the money.
4. S \_\_\_\_\_ t \_\_\_\_\_ you asked so politely, you can certainly have some chocolate.
5. The school is unusual i \_\_\_\_\_ t \_\_\_\_\_ pupils do not have to attend lessons when they prefer not to.
6. I found the essay quite easy i \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ it was on a topic I liked.
7. I quit my job on a \_\_\_\_\_ of the fact that it took me three hours to get there every morning.
8. O \_\_\_\_\_ to the fact that the film didn't have subtitles, I couldn't really follow it.

### ANSWERS

1. Young children need to be watched constantly, **for** they can easily get into dangerous places.
2. We need to understand how technology affects us both positively and negatively, **for** it is becoming a key part of most people's lives.
3. **Seeing as** you always help me, I am happy to lend you the money.
4. **Seeing that** you asked so politely, you can certainly have some chocolate.
5. The school is unusual **in that** pupils do not have to attend lessons when they prefer not to.
6. I found the essay quite easy **inasmuch as** it was on a topic I liked.
7. I quit my job on **account** of the fact that it took me three hours to get there every morning.
8. **Owing** to the fact that the film didn't have subtitles, I couldn't really follow it.



## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Decide whether you should write **because** or **because of** in the following sentences:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ rises in the cost of accommodation, many in their twenties and thirties are unable to afford city-centre flats.
2. Some in their twenties and thirties have had to leave the city \_\_\_\_\_ accommodation prices have gone up so much.
3. I'm really sorry we didn't make it to your party. It was \_\_\_\_\_ the terrible rain.
4. Unfortunately, \_\_\_\_\_ it snowed so much last week, we had to cancel the meeting.
5. I went to live abroad \_\_\_\_\_ I really wanted to broaden my horizons.
6. I was keen to go to university \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that the type of company I want to work for only accepts graduates.
7. Surprisingly, quite a lot of IELTS candidates get lower grades than they should \_\_\_\_\_ failing to read the instructions carefully.
8. Many adults cannot get well-paid jobs \_\_\_\_\_ not having had a good education.

### ANSWERS

1. **Because of** rises in the cost of accommodation, many in their twenties and thirties are unable to afford city-centre flats.
2. Some in their twenties and thirties have had to leave the city **because** accommodation prices have gone up so much.
3. I'm really sorry we didn't make it to your party. It was **because of** the terrible rain.
4. Unfortunately, **because** it snowed so much last week, we had to cancel the meeting.
5. I went to live abroad **because** I really wanted to broaden my horizons.
6. I was keen to go to university **because of** the fact that the type of company I want to work for only accepts graduates.
7. Surprisingly, quite a lot of IELTS candidates get lower grades than they should **because of** failing to read the instructions carefully. ( = Surprisingly, quite a lot of IELTS candidates get lower grades than they should **because** they fail to read the instructions carefully)
8. Many adults cannot get well-paid jobs **because of** not having had a good education. ( = Many adults cannot get well-paid jobs **because** they did not have a good education )

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Complete the following sentences which include clauses of result:

1. Many people believe that politicians cannot be trusted, and s\_\_\_\_\_ decide not to vote.
2. The quality of drinking water has improved s\_\_\_\_\_ fewer people now become ill after drinking it.
3. I have already completed that training course. T\_\_\_\_\_, I don't need to attend.
4. Air quality in many of our major cities is extremely poor. The government should t\_\_\_\_\_ ban motor vehicles from entering urban areas during the day.
5. The r\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_ so many people are poor is that wages tend to be low.
6. The r\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_ we continue to destroy our planet are connected to our greed and stupidity.
7. I had s\_\_\_\_\_ a difficulty experience during my first year at university t\_\_\_\_\_ I decided to leave.
8. The speech went on for s\_\_\_\_\_ long t\_\_\_\_\_ most people fell asleep or left.
9. There are s\_\_\_\_\_ many obstacles to building a fairer society t\_\_\_\_\_ it is unlikely to happen.

### ANSWERS

1. Many people believe that politicians cannot be trusted, and **so** decide not to vote.
2. The quality of drinking water has improved **so** fewer people now become ill after drinking it.
3. I have already completed that training course. **Therefore**, I don't need to attend.
4. Air quality in many of our major cities is extremely poor. The government should **therefore** ban motor vehicles from entering urban areas during the day.
5. The **reason why** so many people are poor is that wages tend to be low.
6. The **reasons why** we continue to destroy our planet are connected to our greed and stupidity.
7. I had **such** a difficulty experience during my first year at university **that** I decided to leave.
8. The speech went on for **so** long **that** most people fell asleep or left.
9. There are **so** many obstacles to building a fairer society **that** it is unlikely to happen.

## **PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises**

Try to match a clause from LIST A with a clause from LIST B to make sentences with clauses of concession:

### **LIST A**

1. Even though increasing the price of airline tickets would be very unpopular,
2. Although I had never previously eaten anything which looked so disgusting,
3. Though I wouldn't recommend caving to everyone,
4. Even if I try harder,

### **LIST B**

1. I don't think I will be able to get into a top-ranking university.
2. it was certainly an exhilarating and unforgettable experience.
3. this strategy could help tackle global warming.
4. I actually really enjoyed it.

### **ANSWERS**

1. Even though increasing the price of airline tickets would be very unpopular, this strategy could help tackle global warming.
2. Although I had never previously eaten anything which looked so disgusting, I actually really enjoyed it.
3. Though I wouldn't recommend caving to everyone, it was certainly an exhilarating and unforgettable experience.
4. Even if I try harder, I don't think I will be able to get into a top-ranking university.

## **PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises**

Try to match a clause from LIST A with a clause from LIST B to make sentences with clauses of concession:

### **LIST A**

1. Although controversial,
2. Though dangerous,
3. Even though difficult to understand,
4. Even though a bit unusual,

### **LIST B**

1. this type of pet is becoming more common.
2. mountaineering can be one of the most exhilarating and rewarding things a person can do.
3. the suggestion that all zoos should be closed down has some famous advocates.
4. cricket is fun.

### **ANSWERS**

1. Although controversial, the suggestion that all zoos should be closed down has some famous advocates.
2. Though dangerous, mountaineering can be one of the most exhilarating and rewarding things a person can do.
3. Even though difficult to understand, cricket is fun.
4. Even though a bit unusual, this type of pet is becoming more common.

## **PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises**

**Re-arrange the words to form sentences which contain clauses of concession:**

1. to seems, never Italy as it I strange wanted have visit
2. now, felt it appears completely safe I as ridiculous
3. we done continued tired we was as job until were, working the
4. no will what support matter happens, you we
5. matter can happy friends are, be unless you you you you never trust have how will no rich
6. privacy no need where you matter live you

### **ANSWERS**

1. Strange as it seems, I have never wanted to visit Italy.
2. Ridiculous as it appears now, I felt completely safe.
3. Tired as we were, we continued working until the job was done.
4. No matter what happens, we will support you.
5. No matter how rich you are, you will never be happy unless you have friends you can trust.
6. No matter where you live, you need privacy.

## **PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises**

Try to match a clause from LIST A with a clause from LIST B to make sentences with TIME CLAUSES:

### **LIST A**

1. Before the smartphone was invented,
2. As soon as I started working there,
3. When students arrive for their first day of classes,
4. Whenever it snows,
5. Until the government takes the matter seriously,

### **LIST B**

1. they are given a brief introduction to the college.
2. I just go outside and build a snowman.
3. a solution seems unlikely.
4. communication was far more limited.
5. I realised that taking the job had been a terrible mistake.

### **ANSWERS**

1. Before the smartphone was invented, communication was far more limited.
2. As soon as I started working there, I realised that taking the job had been a terrible mistake.
3. When students arrive for their first day of classes, they are given a brief introduction to the college.
4. Whenever it snows, I just go outside and build a snowman.
5. Until the government takes the matter seriously, a solution seems unlikely.

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Complete the following sentences which contain time clauses:

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ s \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ I arrive, I will give you a call.
2. He was texting whi \_\_\_\_\_ he was driving.
3. You can stay here a \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ you would like.
4. No s \_\_\_\_\_ had I arrived than it started raining.
5. The s \_\_\_\_\_ this course finishes, the happier I will be.
6. The m \_\_\_\_\_ I finish my work, I'm going out to celebrate.

### ANSWERS

1. **As soon as** I arrive, I will give you a call.
2. He was texting **while** he was driving.
3. You can stay here **as long as** you would like.
4. No **sooner** had I arrived than it started raining.
5. The **sooner** this course finishes, the happier I will be.
6. The **moment/minute** I finish my work, I'm going out to celebrate.

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

The following sentences contain time clauses. Choose the better word(s) to complete each one:

1. As soon as the party finishes, we **go/will go** home.
2. While you **are/will be** working hard, I will be on the beach enjoying the sun.
3. I will have finished my work within the next hour. As soon as I **have done/will have done** it, I will let you know.
4. She would lend you the money. However, as soon as she **would give/gave** it to you, you would spend it.
5. Since I moved to Portugal, my Portuguese **has improved/improved**.
6. Ever since I was a child, I **wanted/have wanted** to work with animals.
7. After I **will be discharged/have been discharged** from hospital, I will spend a few weeks at home recovering.

### ANSWERS

1. As soon as the party finishes, we **will go** home.
2. While you **are** working hard, I will be on the beach enjoying the sun.
3. I will have finished my work within the next hour. As soon as I **have done** it, I will let you know.
4. She would lend you the money. However, as soon as she **gave** it to you, you would spend it.
5. Since I moved to Portugal, my Portuguese **has improved**.
6. Ever since I was a child, I **have wanted** to work with animals.
7. After I **have been discharged** from hospital, I will spend a few weeks at home recovering.