

Using for

The word **for** can be used as a preposition and a conjunction. As a preposition, it is followed by a noun.

Let's buy some flowers **for** mummy.

I waited **for** hours, but she didn't come.

As a conjunction, **for** is used to connect two clauses. A **for**-clause usually shows cause/reason.

I asked him to turn the music down, **for** I wanted to sleep.

Notes

A **for**-clause is not very common in this context and it sounds too formal. In an informal style, we are more likely to express the same idea with **because**.

I asked him to turn the music down **because** I wanted to sleep.

A **for**-clause may also express an inference.

She must have gone to bed **for** there is no light in her room.

As a preposition **for** is used to express several ideas. For example, it can be used to indicate purpose, destination, duration etc. It may also be used to express your liking, suitability or skill **for** something.

I have bought a gift **for** you.

What can I do **for** you?

The college provides vocational training **for** young boys and girls.

Thousands of people have sacrificed their lives **for** the country.

For can indicate duration.

It has been raining **for** hours.

I have been waiting **for** 20 minutes.

For cannot be used with a verb to indicate purpose. The infinitive alone is used to express a person's purpose.

I went to the college to see Professor Charles. (NOT I went to the college **for** seeing Professor Charles.)

However, **for** can be used with an -ing form to indicate the purpose of a thing.

A thermometer is used **for** measuring temperature.

Using for

When the clause has a person as subject, we are more likely to use an infinitive.

We use a thermometer to measure temperature.