

## Dominoes: Infinitives of purpose

by Jill Hadfield

**Level:** Advanced

**Target age:** Secondary / adult

**Time needed:** 20 minutes

**Grammar objective:** to practise using positive and negative infinitives of purpose

**Materials:** one set of domino cards per team

**Summary:** This accuracy-based team competition for small groups is based on the game of dominoes and practises infinitives of purpose: *to*, *in order to*, *so as to* and negatives *so as not to* and *in order not to*.

### Procedure

- Cut up the domino cards for the students in preparation for the lesson.
- Put students into teams of three or four to play the game.
- Give each team one set of domino cards.
  - The first player takes the starter card *I put my alarm on* and lays it down.
  - The same player then distributes the rest of the cards equally between the team members without looking at them.
  - The second player (to the left of the first player) must then find a card that follows after the starter card, for example: *I put my alarm on* *in order to*
  - The next player finds a card to follow the card that the second player chose, such as: *get up early*
  - The game continues clockwise around the teams until all the cards have been used. If a player cannot find a suitable card to lay down, he/she can miss a turn.
  - The team with the longest sentence wins the game.

**Note:** The domino cards are arranged in the order they should be placed to make the longest sentence, but many other combinations are possible.

#### Key:

*I put my alarm on – in order to – get up early – so as not to – miss the bus – so as to – get to the station for the 8am*

*train – to – get to the airport on time – to catch the plane – to – go to Wellington – to – go to a meeting – to – discuss our new project – in order to – finalize the contract – but – my alarm didn't go off – so I got a taxi – so as not to – miss the train – but – we were too late for the train – so I took the taxi all the way to the airport – in order not to miss the plane – but – the taxi broke down – so I hitched a lift – to get to the airport – but – I missed my plane – so I got the next one – to – try to get to part of the meeting – but – the next plane was delayed – so I decided to take a taxi in Wellington – in order to – try and get to the meeting – but – there was a long queue – so I shared a taxi with the man in front of me – but – the taxi broke down – so we ended up walking – to – get into town – but – I was too late for the meeting – so the man I shared the taxi with invited me to dinner – to – cheer me up – so I missed the meeting – but – that's how I met my future husband!*

### Extension

Each of the teams could make up their own domino sentences to challenge the other teams and the game could be played again using these domino cards. Each team would need to create sentences containing the same number of domino cards.

This is a good exercise to test their understanding of infinitives of purpose. Alternately, the students could try to come up with as many logical variations of the sentence as possible.

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### Domino cards



I put my alarm on	in order to	get up early
so as not to	miss the bus	so as to
get to the station for the 8am train	to	get to the airport on time
to catch the plane	to	go to Wellington
to	go to a meeting	to
discuss our new project	in order to	finalize the contract
but	my alarm didn't go off	so I got a taxi
so as not to	miss the train	but
we were too late for the train	so I took the taxi all the way to the airport	in order not to miss the plane
but	the taxi broke down	so I hitched a lift

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### Domino cards



to get to the airport	but	I missed my plane
so I got the next one	to	try to get to part of the meeting
but	the next plane was delayed	so I decided to take a taxi in Wellington
in order to	try and get to the meeting	but
there was a long queue	so I shared a taxi with the man in front of me	but
the taxi broke down	so we ended up walking	to
get into town	but	I was too late for the meeting
so the man I shared the taxi with invited me to dinner	to	cheer me up
so I missed the meeting	but	that's how I met my future husband!