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## Grammar Reference

### 1. 'So that' + 'may' or 'can'

**Objectives** are expressed using '**so that**' followed by:

- a **present simple**

Example:

He'll take a taxi **so that** he **arrives** on time.

- '**may / might**' or '**can / could**' (mainly in speech)

Example:

He told her about my trip to New York **so that** she **could** help me with my itinerary.

- '**will / would**'

Example:

I wrote it in my diary **so that** I **wouldn't** forget.

Note. '**In order that**' (more rare and formal than '**so that**') may also express objectives.

Example:

I'll do the laundry today **in order that** I **may** (or **can**) go out to dinner tomorrow.

### 2. 'I am told'

The **present** sometimes stands in for the **present perfect**, as in:

**'I am told'** (= 'I understand')  
instead of **'I've been told'**

**'I forget'** (= 'I can't remember')  
instead of **'I've forgotten'**

**'I hear'** instead of **'I've heard'**

Example: What time is the match tonight?

**I forget** (**I've forgotten**).

**I am told** (**I've been told**) that you are in charge of the sales department.

### 3. Near certainty in the past

- '**Must have**' + **past participle** expresses **near certainty** regarding the **past**.

*Example:* It **must have slipped** his mind.  
The office staff **must have forgotten** to put them on the consignment note.

- '**Must have**' + **past participle** is usually used in the **affirmative**. In the **negative**, '**cannot have**' + **past participle** is often used.

*Example:* He **can't have done** that intentionally.