

um...zu
damit

um...zu (in order to)
damit (so that)

Often, when we want to express a purpose, intention or goal, we use one of the following modal verbs: *möchten*, *wollen*, *müssen* or *sollen*.

- ▶ *Er möchte Tänzer werden.*
- ▶ *Ich will reich werden.*
- ▶ *Sie muss mehr lernen.*
- ▶ *Wir sollen gesünder leben.*

um...zu und *damit* also indicate a purpose, intention or goal. When you use *um...zu* or *damit* to connect two sentences, you don't put the modal verb in the sentence. Its meaning is implied in the connectors.

- ▶ *Ich koche viel Gemüse. Ich will gesund bleiben. (or: Ich möchte/ muss/ soll gesund bleiben.)*
- ▶ *Ich koche viel Gemüse, um gesund zu bleiben.*

If the subject for the main clause and the subordinate clause is the same, you can use the *um...zu* connector, and you don't put the subject in the *um...zu* sentence.

If there are two different subjects, you have to use a subordinate clause with damit.

- ▶ *Ich koche viel Gemüse. Meine Familie soll gesund bleiben.*
(or: *Meine Familie muss/will/möchte gesund bleiben.*)
- ▶ *Ich koche viel Gemüse, damit meine Familie gesund bleibt.*

Achtung Again, you don't put the modal verb in the *damit* phrase; the meaning of the modal verbs *sollen*, *müssen*, *wollen* and *möchten* (indicating the goal) is implied in the *damit* expression.

However, if you want to connect two sentences where the second sentence provides an option (not a goal) and uses the modal verb *können*, you include the modal verb *können* in the *damit* sentence.

- ▶ *Ich gebe meiner Freundin mein Handy. Meine Freundin kann im Büro anrufen.*
- ▶ *Ich gebe meiner Freundin mein Handy, damit **sie** im Büro anrufen kann.*

If you have only one subject, you can make a sentence either with *damit* or *um...zu*. The construction with *um...zu* is usually preferred.

- ▶ *Ich koche viel Gemüse, um gesund zu bleiben.*
- ▶ *Ich koche viel Gemüse, damit ich gesund bleibe.*

The question word is **wozu?**

- ▶ Wozu kochst du viel Gemüse? -> *Ich koche viel Gemüse, um gesund zu bleiben.*