

101 Verb + preposition (2)



1 Verb + preposition + object

After some verbs, the preposition we use depends on the object:

arrive	arrive <i>in</i> (a town or country)	When did you <i>arrive in</i> England?
	arrive <i>at</i> (any other place)	The train <i>arrived at</i> Victoria Station at six o'clock.
pay	pay (a person or a bill) (no preposition)	My mother <i>paid</i> the bill/the waiter.
	pay <i>for</i> (a thing)	I haven't <i>paid for</i> the tickets yet.
stay	stay <i>in/at</i> (a place)	She <i>stayed at</i> the Hilton Hotel last month.
	stay <i>with</i> (a person)	I'm <i>staying with</i> my cousins for the holidays.

2 Different preposition, different meaning

The meaning of some verbs changes with the prepositions, eg:

- *look at* = turn your eyes towards something or someone:
'Look at the clock. We're late!'
- *look for* = try to find something:
Excuse me. I'm looking for Dr Watson's office. Do you know where it is?
- *look after* = take care of someone/something:
A friend looks after the children while Emily is at work.
- *look like* = have a similar appearance:
Michael looks like his grandfather. They are both tall and slim.

3 Verb + object + preposition

With some verbs (e.g. *ask, thank, invite, tell*) we need a preposition AFTER the object:

verb object preposition
I asked the stranger for directions to the post office.

ask somebody for something	Did you <i>ask the doctor for</i> some advice?
thank somebody for something	The manager <i>thanked the staff for</i> their hard work.
invite somebody to something	I <i>invited Carla to</i> my party.
tell somebody about something	Have you <i>told your parents about</i> your new job yet?

Practice

1 Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.



0 Grandma loves looking
..... *at* her old photos.



1 'He looks
his father!'



2 I've just arrived
..... the station.'



3 Caroline's looking
..... her earring.



4 'Have you told your parents
..... your exam result?'



5 'Excuse me. You haven't
paid your meal!'

2 Write the words in the correct order.

0 about have told you Karel your new job? *Have you told Karel about your new job?*

1 pay how much the meal did you for?

2 at those people me are looking

3 to have your party you invited my brother?

4 my teacher I some extra homework for asked

5 thanked for Sandra the birthday present her mother

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the email. Use a verb from A and a word or phrase from B for each space.

A arrived collecting invited look pay staying told B after at him me the bill us with

Subject Hello Jan

Hi Jan

Today has been a really busy day! Toby (0) *arrived at* the bus station this morning so I went to meet him. We had a sandwich at the café but he didn't have any money so I had to (1) Then I took him to Gina's house. He's (2) her for a few days. He's such a polite guy – he thanked me for (3) from the bus station and gave me a present! After that I rushed home because Carol asked me to (4) her children for the afternoon. They are lovely children – Suzy (5) all about her new school! Anyway, Carol has (6) to dinner next Friday. I hope you can come. Let me know.