

## Using the word “About”

“About” is a useful word that is used often in the English Language. It has a variety of definitions, for example:

1. As an adverb it can mean “close to”, “ready to do something”, “nearby”, “on all sides”.
2. As a preposition after a verb it can mean “in a circle around”, “near”, or “**concerned with**”.

It is the last definition that will be discussed here. We often use the word “about” with words like *talking and thinking*. However, similar words do not require “about”. Here are some charts to show when “about” should be used and when it should not.

With About	Without About
think about ....	consider ....
talk about ....	discuss ....
read about ....	explain ...
write about ....	study ....
argue about ....	
tell (someone) about ....	

### Examples

1. I often think about you. Do you think about me?
2. Last night Emma and Mary talked about the movie. Emma also talked **with** Mary about her classes.
3. Bill is reading about the French Revolution.
4. Bill wrote about the French Revolution in his essay. He wrote **to his parents** about the French Revolution. He wrote **in an email to his parents** about it.
5. She argued **with** him about it. She argued about it **with** him. (Both is OK)
6. Please tell me about your trip. Tell me **all** about it! (I want to know everything about your trip)
7. We need to discuss your bad grades. (We have to talk about them)
8. Before you decide to buy that house, please consider the price! (You should think about the price)
9. The teacher explained **how** to do the problem. She explained it well.
10. The students studied grammar today. After class Ben studied **with** Clara.

Directions: Choose the correct expression in the blank (with or without "about")

1. In his book, the author    talks    talks about    his childhood.
2. We need to    discuss    discuss about    the plan at the meeting.
3. Clean your room! I don't want to    argue    argue about    it anymore!
4. In our book club we are    reading    reading about    famous painters.
5. The boys    talked    talked about    their Christmas presents.
6. Billy's mother patiently    explained    explained about to Billy why he can't play in the mud.
7. Please    consider    consider about    the weather when you make plans for this weekend.
8. Sam    told David    told David about    last night's party.
9. She has been    thinking    thinking about    what to give her father for his birthday.
10. Before the exam the students    studied    studied about    the grammar rules.
11. Why don't you want to    talk    talk about    it?
12. This is important! We need to    discuss    discuss about    it.
13. In the article the journalist    wrote    wrote about    the new vaccine.
14. Please    explain    explain about    to me why you won't come to the party.
15. Will you    tell me    tell me about    your new boyfriend??
16. I think we should    consider    consider about    how to help the poor (people).
17. Please    discuss    discuss about    this with your parents!
18. Jeff likes to    read    read about    the Vikings.