

16 Prepositions after verbs

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a The company agreed for the pay rise.
b The company agreed to the pay rise.
- 2 a The man apologised for standing on my foot.
b The man apologised to stand on my foot.

Some verbs must be followed by a specific preposition. Sometimes more than one preposition is possible and sometimes there is a difference in meaning depending on which preposition is used:

Agree. We say you *agree with* a person or an idea:

I totally agree with the government's decision.

But if you give your consent to something, we use *agree to*:

Both sides in the war have agreed to the ceasefire.

Apologise. We say you *apologise to* someone but you *apologise for* something:

Mum made me go and apologise to our neighbours for breaking their window.

Find out, know, learn, teach, think. These verbs can all be followed by *about*:

Our teacher is trying to teach us about life in the olden days.

Think can be followed by *about* or *of* to talk about opinions or future plans:

What do you think about / of the new computer lab? (opinion)

I'm thinking about / of going back to university next year to finish my degree. (future plan)

Look. We use *look at* when we fix our eyes on something and *look for* when we mean searching for something:

Oh look at the sunset! Isn't it beautiful?

I've looked for my homework everywhere. Have you seen it?

2 Correct the mistake below.



I spend a lot of time looking at my car keys.

I spend a lot of time

3 Fill in the blanks using the correct preposition.

- 1 I don't know very much ancient history.
- 2 The manager agreed an increase in staff holidays.
- 3 The airline apologised losing my luggage.
- 4 How did you find out our college?
- 5 What are you thinking doing in the school holidays?
- 6 We went to the zoo because I wanted to look the penguins.
- 7 I agree the teacher – you really need to improve your handwriting.
- 8 'What are you looking?' 'My glasses, I can't find them anywhere.'