Unit 134

Verb + preposition 3 **about** and **of**

A

hear ABOUT ... = *be told about something*

- Did you **hear about** the fire at the hotel yesterday?

hear OF ... = *know that somebody/something exists*

- 'Who is Tom Hart?' 'I have no idea. I've never **heard of** him.' (*not* heard from him)

hear FROM ... = *be in contact with somebody*

- 'Have you **heard from** Jane recently?' 'Yes, she called me a few days ago.'

B

think ABOUT ... and **think OF** ...

When you **think ABOUT** something, you consider it, you concentrate your mind on it:

- I've **thought about** what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- 'Will you lend me the money?' 'I'll **think about** it.'

When you **think OF** something, the idea comes to your mind:

- It was my idea. I **thought of** it first. (*not* thought about it)
- I felt embarrassed. I couldn't **think of** anything to say. (*not* think about anything)

We also use **think of** when we ask or give an opinion:

- 'What did you **think of** the movie?' 'I didn't **think** much **of** it.' (= I didn't like it much)

The difference is sometimes very small and you can use **of** or **about**:

- When I'm alone, I often **think of** (*or* **about**) you.

You can say **think of** *or* **think about** doing something (for possible future actions):

- My sister is **thinking of** (*or* **about**) going to Canada. (= she is considering it)

C

dream ABOUT ... (when you are asleep)

- I **dreamt about** you last night.

dream OF *or* **ABOUT** being something / doing something = *imagine*

- Do you **dream of** (*or* **about**) being rich and famous?

I **wouldn't dream OF** doing something = *I would never do it*

- 'Don't tell anyone what I said.' 'No, I **wouldn't dream of** it.' (= I would never do it)

D

complain (**TO** somebody) **ABOUT** ... = *say that you are not satisfied*

- We **complained to** the manager of the restaurant **about** the food.

complain OF a pain, an illness etc. = *say that you have a pain etc.*

- We called the doctor because George was **complaining of** a pain in his stomach.

E

remind somebody **ABOUT** ... = *tell somebody not to forget*

- I'm glad you **reminded** me **about** the meeting. I'd completely forgotten about it.

remind somebody **OF** ... = *cause somebody to remember*

- This house **reminds** me **of** the one I lived in when I was a child.
- Look at this photograph of Richard. Who does he **remind** you **of**?

F

warn somebody **ABOUT** a person or thing which is bad, dangerous, unusual etc.

- I knew he was a strange person. I had been **warned about** him. (*not* warned of him)
- Vicky **warned me** about the traffic. She said it would be bad.

warn somebody **ABOUT** *or* **OF** a danger, something bad which might happen later

- Scientists have **warned** us **about** (*or* **of**) the effects of climate change.

Remind/warn somebody **to** ... → Unit 55B

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

134.1 Complete the sentences using **hear** or **heard** + a preposition (**about/of/from**).

1 I've never heard of Tom Hart. Who is he?
2 'Did you ..... the accident last night?' 'Yes, Vicky told me.'
3 Jane used to call me quite often, but I haven't ..... her for a long time now.
4 A: Have you ..... a writer called William Hudson?
  B: No, I don't think so. What sort of writer is he?
5 Thanks for your email. It was good to ..... you.
6 'Do you want to ..... our holiday?' 'Not now. Tell me later.'
7 I live in a small town in the north of England. You've probably never ..... it.

134.2 Complete the sentences using **think about** or **think of**. Sometimes both **about** and **of** are possible. Use the correct form of **think** (**think/thinking/thought**).

1 You look serious. What are you thinking about ?
2 I need time to make decisions. I like to ..... things carefully.
3 That's a good idea. Why didn't I ..... that?
4 A: I've finished reading the book you lent me.
  B: What did you ..... it? Did you think it was good?
5 We're ..... going out to eat this evening. Would you like to come?
6 I don't really want to go out with Tom tonight. I'll have to ..... an excuse.
7 When I was offered the job, I didn't accept immediately. I went away and ..... it for a while. In the end I decided to take the job.
8 I don't ..... much ..... this coffee. It's like water.
9 Katherine is homesick. She's always ..... her family back home.
10 A: Do you think I should apply to do the course?
  B: I can't ..... any reason why not.

134.3 Put in the correct preposition.

1 Did you hear about the fire at the hotel yesterday?
2 'I had a strange dream last night.' 'Did you? What did you dream ..... ?'
3 Our neighbours complained ..... us ..... the noise we made last night.
4 Kevin was complaining ..... pains in his chest, so he went to the doctor.
5 I love this music. It reminds me ..... a warm day in spring.
6 He loves his job. He thinks ..... his work all the time, he dreams ..... it, he talks ..... it and I'm fed up with hearing ..... it.
7 'We've got no money. What can we do?' 'Don't worry. I'll think ..... something.'
8 Jackie warned me ..... the water. She said it wasn't safe to drink.
9 We warned our children ..... the dangers of playing in the street.

134.4 Complete the sentences using these verbs (in the correct form) + a preposition:

complain **dream** **hear** **remind** **remind** ~~**think**~~ **think** **warn**

1 It was my idea. I thought of it first.
2 Ben is never satisfied. He's always ..... something.
3 I can't make a decision yet. I need time to ..... your proposal.
4 Before you go into the house, I must ..... you ..... the dog. He's bitten people before, so be careful.
5 She's not a well-known singer. Not many people have ..... her.
6 A: You wouldn't go away without telling me, would you?
  B: Of course not. I wouldn't ..... it.
7 I would have forgotten my appointment if Jane hadn't ..... me ..... it.
8 Do you see that man over there? Does he ..... you ..... anybody you know?

→ Additional exercise 36 (page 323)

LIVEWORKSHEETS