3

Prepositions

Using prepositions after certain verbs

In this unit you learn about which preposition you use after some common verbs. You also learn which common verbs have no preposition after them.

To: David
From: Alice
Subject: Last night

Hi David

How are you? I was very busy yesterday evening. I listened to music for a few minutes but my mum shouted at me because it was too loud. Then I talked to some friends on the phone. We talked about music and films.

Then I wrote an email to my friend in Australia. She's just got engaged to her boyfriend and she's marrying him next year.

After that I watched a funny DVD and laughed at all the jokes. I borrowed it from the library. I can lend it to you if you like.

Speak to you soon.
Alice

Read the email. The table below shows you which prepositions are used with which verbs, or if prepositions are needed at all.

Verb	Preposition(s)
agree	with / to
arrive	at / in
laugh	at
listen	to
look	at
shout	at
hear	–
smile	at
ask	–
talk	to, about

Verb	Preposition(s)
speak	to / about
tell	–
think	about
watch	–
write	about, to
borrow	–
lend	to
get / be engaged	to
get / be married	to
marry	–

LIVEWORKSHEETS

discuss and **agree**

*I discussed the holiday **with** my parents.*
*He agreed **with** everything I said.*

speak and **tell**

*I spoke **to** him **about** the job.*
*I told him **about** my plans.*

Exercise 1

Match the sentences with the pictures.

1 He's looking at the cat. **a**



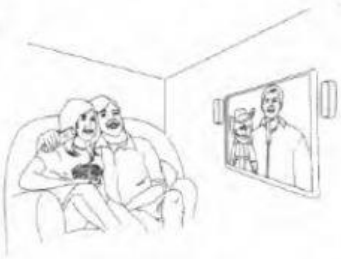
2 She's listening to music.

b



3 It's thinking about food.

c



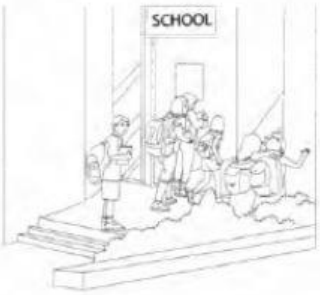
4 They're laughing at the TV programme.

d



5 They're getting married.

e



6 They're arriving at school.

f



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 2

Match the sentence halves.

1 They wrote notes	**a** from friends.
2 We all agree	**b** 'Come here!' to the cat.
3 Fred borrowed some money	**c** with you.
4 We were discussing	**d** our plans for next year.
5 Rachel is looking	**e** at the holiday photos.
6 The man shouted	**f** to their friends.

Exercise 3

Choose the correct word.

1 I lent some money **to / from** my friend.

2 You need to talk **about / to** Ellie and ask her to help you.

3 That girl is smiling **of / at** me!

4 Steve agreed **to / with** Carlos about their trip.

5 I'm going to write **about / to** my friend Teresa and tell her the news.

6 We all laughed **at / to** the funny film.

Exercise 4

Put the correct word in each gap.

tell | think | agree | watch | ask | talk

Hi Natasha!

Thanks for your email. I [1]_____ with you about the date of our team meeting – the 22nd will be much better than the 16th as we're all so busy at the moment. I'm going to [2]_____ Heinrich Schmidt if he can come to the meeting. He can [3]_____ us all about the recent business trips he's been on. We can also [4]_____ the film that he made. Is there anything else you [5]_____ we need to [6]_____ about together at the meeting?

Alex

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 5

Put the correct word in each gap.

with | about | of | at | from | to

When I was on holiday, I spent a lot of time walking the streets of the old city and taking photos [1]_____ the buildings there. I also listened [2]_____ local people talking [3]_____ the history of their city, and I agreed [4]_____ them that it is very beautiful. I went into several museums to look [5]_____ the amazing paintings in them, and I borrowed some useful books [6]_____ the big library there, too. It was a very interesting holiday, and I'm going back again next year.

Exercise 6

Which sentences are correct?

1 Tony is going to get engaged with his girlfriend next month. ❑

2 I had to borrow some money to the bank. ❑

3 I need to discuss a few things with my colleague. ❑

4 Everyone is looking to something strange in the sky. ❑

5 The speaker is talking about the history of the city. ❑

6 We've just arrived at the train station. ❑

LIVEWORKSHEETS