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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.'