

# 100 Verb + preposition (1)



Jim phoned the electrical shop and spoke to the manager.  
He complained about his new vacuum cleaner.

## 1 Verb + preposition + object

After some verbs (e.g. *complain*, *look*) we need a preposition BEFORE the object:

verb + object      verb + preposition + object  
Jim **phoned** **the shop** and **complained** **about** his **new vacuum cleaner**.  
Sue **ate** **a sandwich** and **looked** **at** **a magazine**.

Look at the word order in questions:

Are you **complaining about** the camera? Which camera are you **complaining about**?  
What are you **looking at**?

## 2 Verb + preposition

Here are some common verbs + prepositions:

verb + to	belong to explain to listen to speak to talk to write to
verb + about	complain about read about speak about talk about think about
verb + for	apply for look for pay for wait for work for
verb + in	arrive in believe in get in live in succeed in stay in
verb + of	approve of think of
verb + on	depend on decide on
verb + at	arrive at laugh at look at stay at
verb + with	agree with stay with

We've been **waiting for** half an hour! What are you **listening to**?  
Maria is right. I **agree with** her.

- ! If there is a verb after the preposition, we use the **-ing** form:  
X I'm thinking of **buy** a new car. ✓ I'm thinking of **buying** a new car.
- ! We don't use **to** after the verbs *ask*, *answer*, *call*, *phone* and *thank*:  
X Please **phone to** me later. ✓ Please **phone** me later.
- ! We don't use **about** after *discuss*:  
X We **discussed about** the weather. ✓ We **discussed** the weather.

## 3 Verb + to/about

We often use **to** before people and **about** before things:

I saw Lucy **talking to** Jake. They were **talking about** Jake's party.

A verb can be followed by more than one preposition + noun in a sentence:

I **complained to the manager about the vacuum cleaner**.

## Practice

### 1 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 0 That book belongs       | → A in luck.         |
| 1 She often complains     | → B to the library.  |
| 2 You have to apply       | C at your visa.      |
| 3 Let me look             | D on other people.   |
| 4 I don't believe         | E about the weather. |
| 5 She doesn't approve     | F of my friends.     |
| 6 You should never depend | G for a visa.        |

### 2 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct words in *italics* in the text.

**HomeAdvice** Stories and advice about all your problems.

new topic | post | reply

AUTHOR	MESSAGE
<p>Alicia posted Monday April 5</p>	<p>I'm a cleaner and I'm working (0) <i>of / for</i> a family in Scotland. I live (1) <i>in / with</i> their house. They make me use a very expensive German vacuum cleaner but it's very difficult to find new bags for it. So I looked (2) <i>of / for</i> them on the Internet and bought some from a website. I used my bank card. I've been waiting (3) <i>for / at</i> three weeks but nothing has arrived. What should I do?</p>
<p>Freddy posted Tuesday April 6</p>	<p>Why don't you (4) <i>phone to / phone</i> the Internet company and (5) <i>ask to / ask</i> them what has happened? It's usually OK to buy things on the Internet. But I always (6) <i>pay for / pay</i> things with my credit card, not my bank card.</p>
<p>Belinda posted Wednesday April 7</p>	<p>Alicia, I'm afraid I don't agree (7) <i>of / with</i> Freddy. I never buy things on the Internet. I often read (8) <i>about / from</i> problems like the one you are having. I don't believe (9) <i>of / in</i> using the Internet, it isn't safe. Why don't you complain (10) <i>on / about</i> the Internet company to your bank? Maybe they can help ...</p>

### 3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the phone conversation with prepositions.

Write (–) if you do not need a preposition.

AGENT Good morning. Apex Cleaning.

MARTA Hello. I'm looking (0) *for* some part-time cleaning work.

AGENT OK. First, I need to ask (1) ..... you – do you have any experience?

MARTA Yes. I'm working for SuperClean at the moment, but I'm thinking (2) ..... changing my job.

AGENT How long have you worked there and why do you want to change?

MARTA I've worked (3) ..... them for about six months. But I live outside the city now and SuperClean doesn't pay (4) ..... my transport. Your office is much closer to my house.

AGENT I see. Which area do you live (5) .....?

MARTA Solihull.

AGENT Have you applied (6) ..... a job with us before? Or spoken (7) ..... a member of staff?

MARTA Well, I phoned (8) ..... your office last week but nobody answered ...