

101 Verb + preposition (2)



1 Verb + preposition + object

After some verbs, the preposition we use depends on the object:

arrive	<i>arrive in</i> (a town or country) <i>arrive at</i> (any other place)	<i>When did you arrive in England?</i> <i>The train arrived at Victoria Station at six o'clock.</i>
pay	<i>pay</i> (a person or a bill) (no preposition) <i>pay for</i> (a thing)	<i>My mother paid the bill/the waiter.</i> <i>I haven't paid for the tickets yet.</i>
stay	<i>stay in/at</i> (a place) <i>stay with</i> (a person)	<i>She stayed at the Hilton Hotel last month.</i> <i>I'm staying with my cousins for the holidays.</i>

2 Different preposition, different meaning

The meaning of some verbs changes with the prepositions, eg:

- *look at* = turn your eyes towards something or someone:
'Look at the clock. We're late!'
- *look for* = try to find something:
Excuse me. I'm looking for Dr Watson's office. Do you know where it is?
- *look after* = take care of someone/something:
A friend looks after the children while Emily is at work.
- *look like* = have a similar appearance:
Michael looks like his grandfather. They are both tall and slim.

3 Verb + object + preposition

With some verbs (e.g. *ask*, *thank*, *invite*, *tell*) we need a preposition AFTER the object:

verb object preposition
I asked the stranger for directions to the post office.

<i>ask somebody for something</i>	<i>Did you ask the doctor for some advice?</i>
<i>thank somebody for something</i>	<i>The manager thanked the staff for their hard work.</i>
<i>invite somebody to something</i>	<i>I invited Carla to my party.</i>
<i>tell somebody about something</i>	<i>Have you told your parents about your new job yet?</i>

Practice

1 Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.



0 Grandma loves looking
..... her old photos.



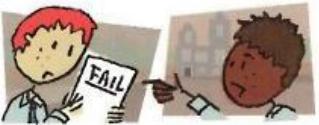
1 'He looks
his father!'



2 I've just arrived
..... the station.'



3 Caroline's looking
..... her earring.



4 'Have you told your parents
..... your exam result?'



5 'Excuse me. You haven't
paid your meal!'

2 Write the words in the correct order.

0 about have told you Karel your new job ? *Have you told Karel about your new job?*

1 pay how much the meal did you for ?
.....

2 at those people me are looking
.....

3 to have your party you invited my brother ?
.....

4 my teacher I some extra homework for asked
.....

5 thanked for Sandra the birthday present her mother
.....

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the email. Use a verb from A and a word or phrase from B for each space.

A arrived collecting invited look pay staying told B after at him me the bill us with

Subject: Hello Jan

Hi Jan

Today has been a really busy day! Toby (0) *arrived at* the bus station this morning so I went to meet him. We had a sandwich at the café but he didn't have any money so I had to (1) Then I took him to Gina's house. He's (2) her for a few days. He's such a polite guy – he thanked me for (3) from the bus station and gave me a present! After that I rushed home because Carol asked me to (4) her children for the afternoon. They are lovely children – Suzy (5) all about her new school! Anyway, Carol has (6) to dinner next Friday. I hope you can come. Let me know.