

A

Verb + about

talk / read / know ABOUT ... , tell somebody ABOUT ...

- ☐ We **talked about** a lot of things at the meeting.

have a discussion ABOUT something, *but discuss* something (no preposition)

- ☐ We had **a discussion about** what we should do.
☐ We **discussed** a lot of things at the meeting. (*not discussed about*)

do something **ABOUT** something = *do something to improve a bad situation*

- ☐ If you're worried about the problem, you should **do** something **about** it.

B

Verb + for

ask (somebody) **FOR** ...

- ☐ I sent an email to the company **asking** them **for** more information about the job.

but 'I **asked** him **the way** to ...', 'She **asked** me **my name**' (no preposition)

apply (TO a person, a company etc.) **FOR** a job etc.

- ☐ I think you'd be good at this job. Why don't you **apply for** it?

wait FOR ...

- ☐ Don't **wait for** me. I'll join you later.
☐ I'm not going out yet. I'm **waiting for** the rain to stop.

search (a person / a place / a bag etc.) **FOR** ...

- ☐ I've **searched** the house **for** my keys, but I still can't find them.

leave (a place) **FOR** another place

- ☐ I haven't seen her since she **left** (home) **for** the office this morning.
 (*not left to the office*)

C

Care about, care for and take care of

care ABOUT somebody/something = *think that somebody/something is important*

- ☐ He's very selfish. He doesn't **care about** other people.

We say '**care what/where/how ...**' etc. (*without about*):

- ☐ You can do what you like. I don't **care what** you do.

care FOR somebody/something

(1) = *like something* (usually negative sentences)

- ☐ I don't **care for** very hot weather. (= I don't like ...)

(2) = *look after somebody*

- ☐ Alan is 85 and lives alone. He needs somebody to **care for** him.

take care OF ... = *look after, keep safe, take responsibility for*

- ☐ Don't worry about me. I can **take care of** myself.
☐ I'll **take care of** the travel arrangements. You don't need to do anything.

D

Look for and look after

look FOR ... = *search for, try to find*

- ☐ I've lost my keys. Can you help me to **look for** them?

look AFTER ... = *take care of, keep safe or in good condition*

- ☐ Alan is 85 and lives alone. He needs somebody to **look after** him. (*not look for*)
☐ You can borrow this book, but you must promise to **look after** it.

133.1 Put in the correct preposition. If no preposition is necessary, leave the space empty.

- 1 I'm not going out yet. I'm waiting for the rain to stop.
- 2 Don't ask me _____ money. I don't have any.
- 3 I've applied _____ a job at the factory. I don't know if I'll get it.
- 4 I've applied _____ three colleges. I hope one of them accepts me.
- 5 I've searched everywhere _____ Joe, but I haven't been able to find him.
- 6 I don't want to talk _____ what happened last night. Let's forget it.
- 7 I don't want to discuss _____ what happened last night. Let's forget it.
- 8 We had an interesting discussion _____ the problem, but we didn't reach a decision.
- 9 We discussed _____ the problem, but we didn't reach a decision.
- 10 I sent her an email. Now I'm waiting _____ her to reply.
- 11 Ken and Sonia are travelling in Italy. They're in Rome right now, and tomorrow they leave _____ Venice.
- 12 The roof of the house is in very bad condition. I think we ought to do something _____ it.
- 13 We waited _____ Steve for half an hour, but he never came.
- 14 Tomorrow morning I have to catch a plane. I'm leaving my house _____ the airport at 7.30.

133.2 Put in the correct preposition after **care**. If no preposition is necessary, leave the space empty.

- 1 He's very selfish. He doesn't care about other people.
- 2 Who's going to take care _____ you when you are old?
- 3 She doesn't care _____ the exam. She doesn't care whether she passes or fails.
- 4 'Do you like this coat?' 'Not really. I don't care _____ the colour.'
- 5 Don't worry about the shopping. I'll take care _____ that.
- 6 He gave up his job to care _____ his elderly father.
- 7 I want to have a good holiday. I don't care _____ the cost.
- 8 I want to have a good holiday. I don't care _____ how much it costs.

133.3 Complete the sentences with **look for** or **look after**. Use the correct form of **look** (looks/looked/looking).

- 1 I looked for my keys, but I couldn't find them anywhere.
- 2 Kate is _____ a job. I hope she finds one soon.
- 3 Who _____ you when you were ill?
- 4 I'm _____ Liz. I need to ask her something. Have you seen her?
- 5 The car park was full, so we had to _____ somewhere else to park.
- 6 A babysitter is somebody who _____ other people's children.

133.4 Complete the sentences with these verbs (in the correct form) + a preposition:

apply ask do leave look ~~search~~ talk wait

- 1 Police are searching for the man who escaped from prison.
- 2 Sarah wasn't ready. We had to _____ her.
- 3 I think Ben likes his job, but he doesn't _____ it much.
- 4 When I'd finished my meal, I _____ the waiter _____ the bill.
- 5 Cathy is unemployed. She has _____ several jobs, but she hasn't had any luck.
- 6 If something is wrong, why don't you _____ something _____ it?
- 7 Helen's car is very old, but it's in excellent condition. She _____ it very well.
- 8 Diane is from Boston, but now she lives in Paris. She _____ Boston _____ Paris when she was 19.