

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.

Exercises

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

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

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

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

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

- I looked for my keys, but I couldn't find them anywhere.
- Kate is looking for a job. I hope she finds one soon.
- Who looked after you when you were ill?
- I'm looking for Liz. I need to ask her something. Have you seen her?
- The car park was full, so we had to look for somewhere else to park.
- A babysitter is somebody who looks after 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

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