

Verb + preposition 2 **about/for/of/after****A** verb + **about****talk / read / know ABOUT ...**

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

have a discussion ABOUT something

- ☐ We had **a discussion about** what we should do.

But we say '**discuss** something' (no preposition):

- ☐ We **discussed** what we should do. (*not discussed about*)

do something/nothing **ABOUT** something = *do something/nothing to improve a 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 we say 'ask somebody **the way / the time**' etc. (no preposition):

- ☐ I **asked** somebody **the way to the station**.

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

- ☐ I think you could do this job. Why don't you **apply for** it?

wait FOR somebody, **wait FOR** something (to happen)

- ☐ 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** work. (*not left to work*)

C **take care of, care for** and **care about****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.

care FOR somebody = *take care of them, keep them safe*

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

I don't **care FOR** something = *I don't like it*

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

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

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

care what/where/how ... etc. (*without about*)

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

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 please **look after** it.

Exercises

133.1 Which is right?

- 1 We searched everywhere Joe / searched everywhere for Joe, but we couldn't find him.
(searched everywhere for Joe is correct)
- 2 I sent her an email. Now I'm waiting for her to reply / waiting her to reply.
- 3 A security guard searched my bag / searched for my bag as I entered the building.
- 4 I paid the taxi driver and asked him a receipt / asked him for a receipt.
- 5 I wanted to get to the city centre, so I stopped a man to ask the way / to ask for the way.
- 6 We discussed about the problem / discussed the problem, but we didn't reach a decision.
- 7 There are many problems, but the government does nothing for them / nothing about them.
- 8 My flight is at 9.30. What time do I need to leave the hotel to the airport / for the airport?

133.2 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 I've applied three universities. I hope one of them accepts me.
- 3 If you don't want the job, there's no point in applying it.
- 4 I don't want to talk what happened last night. Let's forget it.
- 5 I don't want to discuss what happened last night. Let's forget it.
- 6 We had an interesting discussion the problem, but we didn't reach a decision.
- 7 My friends are in Italy. They're in Rome now and tomorrow they leave Milan.
- 8 The roof of the house is in bad condition. We need to do something it.

133.3 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 I don't like this coat very much. 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.

133.4 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 The car park was full, so we had to somewhere else to park.
- 5 A child minder is somebody who other people's children.
- 6 I'm Lisa. I need to ask her something. Have you seen her?

133.5 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 a man who escaped from prison.
- 2 Sarah wasn't ready. We had to her.
- 3 I think Amy likes her job, but she doesn't it much.
- 4 Don't me money. I don't have any.
- 5 Ben is unemployed. He has several jobs, but hasn't had any luck.
- 6 If something is wrong, why don't you something it?
- 7 Helen's car is very old, but she it. It's in excellent condition.
- 8 Diane is from Boston, but now she lives in Paris. She Boston Paris when she was 19.