

Verb + preposition 2 about/for/of/after

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

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 in questions and negative sentences)

- ☐ Would you care for a cup of coffee? (= Would you like ... ?)
- ☐ 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*

- ☐ Have a nice holiday. Take care of yourself! (= look after yourself)

C

Verb + for

ask (somebody) FOR ...

- ☐ I wrote 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)

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*

- ☐ 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 I couldn't find the street I was looking for, so I stopped someone to ask directions.
- 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 John, 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 don't want to go out yet. I'm waiting the post to arrive.
- 11 Ken and Sonia are touring Italy. They're in Rome at the moment, but 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 Complete the sentences with the following verbs (in the correct form) + preposition:

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

- 1 Police are searching for the man who escaped from prison.
- 2 We're still a reply to our letter. We haven't heard anything yet.
- 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 Linda'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.

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 Are you hungry? Would you care something to eat?
- 3 She doesn't care the exam. She doesn't care whether she passes or fails.
- 4 Please let me borrow your camera. I promise I'll take good care it.
- 5 'Do you like this coat?' 'Not really. I don't care the colour.'
- 6 Don't worry about the shopping. I'll take care that.
- 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 I'm Elizabeth. 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.