

## Verb + Preposition (2) – about/for/of/after

### A

#### Verb + about

talk ABOUT / read ABOUT / tell somebody ABOUT . . . :

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

We say “have a discussion about something” *but* “discuss something” (no preposition):

- We discussed a lot of things at the meeting. (*not* discussed about)

Also: 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 = like somebody or 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 . . .)
- Amy doesn’t care for Jason very much. (= She doesn’t like . . .)

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 her a question. / They asked me the way to the station. (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 . . . / wait FOR something to happen:

- Don’t wait for me. I’ll see 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 this morning. (*not* left to work)

### D

#### Look for and look after

look FOR . . . (= search for, try to find):

- I’ve lost my keys. Can you help me look for them?

look AFTER . . . (= take care of):

- You can have a pet dog if you promise to look after it.

# Exercises

## 129.1 Put in the correct preposition. If no preposition is needed, leave the space empty (-).

1. I'm not going out yet. I'm waiting for the rain to stop.
2. You're always asking me \_\_\_\_\_ money. Ask somebody else for a change.
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 mail to arrive.
11. The roof of the house is in very bad condition. I think we ought to do something \_\_\_\_\_ it.
12. Tomorrow morning I have to catch a plane. I'm leaving my house \_\_\_\_\_ the airport at 7:30.

## 129.2 Complete the sentences with one of the following verbs in the correct form + preposition:

apply ask do leave ~~search~~ take care 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 finished my meal, I \_\_\_\_\_ the waiter \_\_\_\_\_ the check.
5. Maria 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 has really \_\_\_\_\_ it.
8. Diane is from Boston, but now she lives in Paris. She \_\_\_\_\_ Boston \_\_\_\_\_ Paris when she was 19.

## 129.3 Put in the correct preposition after care. If no preposition is needed, 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 not.
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 color."
6. Don't worry about the shopping. I'll take care \_\_\_\_\_ it.
7. I want to have a nice vacation. I don't care \_\_\_\_\_ the cost.
8. I want to have a nice vacation. I don't care \_\_\_\_\_ how much it costs.

## 129.4 Complete the sentences with look for or look after. Use the correct form of look.

1. I looked for my keys, but I couldn't find them anywhere.
2. Jennifer is \_\_\_\_\_ a job. I hope she finds one soon.
3. Who \_\_\_\_\_ you when you were sick?
4. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ Elizabeth. Have you seen her?
5. All the parking meters were taken, so we had to \_\_\_\_\_ a parking garage.
6. A babysitter is somebody who \_\_\_\_\_ other people's children.