

Verb + Preposition (3) – *about* and *of*

A

dream ABOUT . . . :

- I dreamed about you last night. (when I was asleep)

dream OF being something / doing something (= imagine):

- I often dream of being rich.
- “Don’t tell anyone what I said.” “No, I wouldn’t dream of it.” (= I would never do it)

B

hear ABOUT . . . (= be told about something):

- Did you hear about the fight in the restaurant on Saturday night?

hear OF . . . (= know that somebody/something exists):

- “Who is Tom Hart?” “I have no idea. I’ve never heard of him.” (*not* heard from him)

Also: hear FROM . . . (= receive a letter or phone call from somebody):

- “Have you heard from Lisa lately?” “Yes, I got a letter from her a few days ago.”

C

think ABOUT . . . and think OF . . .

When you think ABOUT something, you consider it, you concentrate your mind on it:

- You look serious. What are you thinking about?
- “Will you lend me the money?” “I’ll think about it.”

When you think OF something, the idea comes to your mind:

- He told me his name, but I can’t think of it now. (*not* think about it)
- That’s a good idea. Why didn’t I think of that? (*not* think about that)

We also use think of when we ask or give an opinion:

- “What did you think of the movie?” “I didn’t think much of it.” (= I didn’t like it much)

For possible future actions, you can say think of or think about doing something:

- My sister is thinking of (*or about*) going to Canada. (= she is considering it)

D

remind somebody ABOUT . . . (= tell somebody not to forget):

- I’m glad you reminded me about the meeting. I had completely forgotten about it.

remind somebody OF . . . (= cause somebody to remember):

- This house reminds me of the one I lived in when I was a child.
- Look at this picture of Richard. Who does he remind you of?

E

complain (TO somebody) ABOUT . . . (= say that you are not satisfied):

- We complained to the manager of the restaurant about the food.

complain OF a pain / an illness, etc. (= say that you have a pain, etc.):

- We called the doctor because George was complaining of a pain in his stomach.

F

warn somebody ABOUT a person or thing that is dangerous, unusual, etc.:

- I knew he was a strange person. I had been warned about him. (*not* warned of him)
- Vicky warned us about the traffic. She said it would be bad.

warn somebody ABOUT/OF a danger, something bad that might happen:

- Everybody has been warned about/of the dangers of smoking.

Exercises

130.1 Put in the correct preposition.

1. Did you hear about what happened at the party on Saturday?
2. "I had a strange dream last night." "You did? What did you dream _____?"
3. Our neighbors complained _____ us _____ the noise we made last night.
4. Ken was complaining _____ pains in his chest, so he went to the doctor.
5. I love this music. It reminds me _____ a warm day in spring.
6. He loves his job. He thinks _____ his job all the time, he dreams _____ it, he talks _____ it, and I'm sick of hearing _____ it.
7. I tried to remember the name of the book, but I couldn't think _____ it.
8. Janet warned me _____ the water. She said it wasn't safe to drink.
9. We warned our children _____ the dangers of playing in the street.

130.2 Complete the sentences using one of the following verbs in the correct form + the correct preposition:

complain dream hear remind remind ~~think~~ think warn

1. That's a good idea. Why didn't I think of _____ that?
2. Bill is never satisfied. He is always _____ something.
3. I can't make a decision yet. I need time to _____ your proposal.
4. Before you go into the house, I should _____ you _____ the dog. He is very aggressive sometimes, so be careful.
5. She's not a well-known singer. Not many people have _____ her.
6. A: You wouldn't leave without telling me, would you?
B: Of course not. I wouldn't _____ it.
7. I would have forgotten my appointment if Jane hadn't _____ me _____ it.
8. Do you see that man over there? Does he _____ you _____ anybody you know?

130.3 Complete the sentences using *hear* or *heard* + the correct preposition.

1. I've never heard of _____ Tom Hart. Who is he?
2. "Did you _____ the accident last night?" "Yes, Vicky told me."
3. Jill used to write to me quite often, but I haven't _____ her for ages now.
4. A: Have you _____ a writer called William Hudson?
B: No, I don't think so. What sort of writer is he?
5. Thank you for your letter. It was good to _____ you again.
6. "Do you want to _____ our vacation?" "Not now. Tell me later."
7. I live in a very small town in Texas. You've probably never _____ it.

130.4 Complete the sentences using *think about* or *think of*. Use the correct form of *think*.

1. You look serious. What are you thinking about _____?
2. I like to have time to make decisions. I like to _____ things carefully.
3. I don't know what to get Ann for her birthday. Can you _____ anything?
4. What did you _____ the book I lent you? Did you like it?
5. We're _____ going out for dinner tonight. Would you like to come?
6. I don't really want to go out with Sam. I'll have to _____ an excuse.
7. Carol is very homesick. She's always _____ her family back home.
8. When I was offered the job, I didn't accept immediately. I went away and _____ it for a while. In the end I decided to take the job.
9. I don't _____ much _____ this coffee. It tastes like water.