

24 Words and prepositions

A Verbs

Some verbs are usually followed by a preposition.
I **listen to** the radio in bed in the morning.
I **waited for** the bus for half an hour yesterday.
I **asked for** a black coffee, not a white one.
Where do I **pay for** our meal?
This book **belongs to** Sarah Smith.



What are you **thinking about**?
Helena **thanked** her mother **for** the present.
Jamie **apologised** **for** being late.

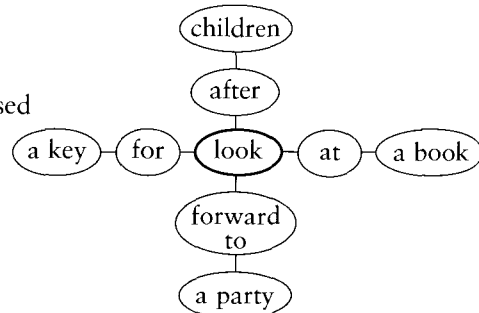


I'm sorry



B Same verb, different preposition

Some verbs have different meanings when they are used with different prepositions, for example, **look**.



I love **looking at** old photographs.
If you want to find something, for example, your key, you must **look for** it.
Parents **look after** their children (= they take care of them).
You **look forward to** something nice in the future, for example, a friend's letter, a holiday.

C Adjectives

Some adjectives are also followed by prepositions.
I'm **good at** geography but **bad at** maths.
I'm **interested in** (hearing) all your news.
He is **afraid of** mice.
John is **proud of** winning a medal and his mother is **proud of** him.

Note: You are **used to** (or **accustomed to**) what you know well; you have to **get used to** / **accustomed to** something new, for example a new school or driving on the other side of the road; you are used to doing something, I'm used to getting up early, I always do.

D Grammar

Prepositions are followed by a noun: Joe is **good at tennis** or the -ing form of the verb: Joe is **good at playing** the piano [NOT good at ~~play~~ the piano].

Tip: Look carefully at prepositions when you read in English. Make a note of any phrases which use prepositions in a new way.

Exercises

24.1 Match a phrase on the left with a phrase on the right, to make seven sentences.

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1 John is waiting | for his mistake. |
| 2 This bicycle belongs | about the holidays. |
| 3 The children thanked their grandmother | for a train to London. |
| 4 Sally is listening | to the hotel. |
| 5 He apologised | for our tickets. |
| 6 Let me pay | to her walkman. |
| 7 Billy is thinking | for the money. |

24.2 Complete these sentences with a preposition and an appropriate noun or pronoun.

- 1 Joanna can't read yet but she likes looking *at books*.....
- 2 A nurse looks
- 3 I can't find my glasses? Could you help me look
- 4 It's my birthday soon. I'm really looking
- 5 Why are you looking in that way? Is my face dirty?
- 6 I don't like my job very much. I'm looking
- 7 Alex is going to France in July. He is looking
- 8 I often look when their parents go out.

24.3 Fill the gaps with a preposition.

Anne has got used ⁽¹⁾..... her new job and is doing well there. She is very good ⁽²⁾..... talking to customers. She always listens ⁽³⁾..... them. She is very interested ⁽⁴⁾..... sport and she belongs ⁽⁵⁾..... a tennis club and a swimming club. Her parents were very proud ⁽⁶⁾..... her when she won a medal for swimming last year.

24.4 Hiroshi is a visitor from Japan. Make sentences about what he found strange, at first, in Britain.

- 1 driving on the left ✓ *Hiroshi was used to driving on the left.*
- 2 speaking English every day ✗ *He wasn't used to speaking English every day.*
- 3 eating British food ✗
- 4 traffic jams ✓
- 5 expensive shops ✓
- 6 British money ✗

24.5 Answer these questions about *yourself*.

- 1 What were you good at at school? What were you bad at?
- 2 What do you usually ask for when you go to a café?
- 3 What are you proud of?
- 4 What are you afraid of?
- 5 What kind of music do you like listening to?
- 6 What are you looking forward to?
- 7 Do you belong to any clubs?
- 8 Are you used to eating different kinds of food?