

# 100 Verb + preposition (1)



Jim phoned the electrical shop and spoke to the manager.  
He complained about his new vacuum cleaner.

## 1 Verb + preposition + object

After some verbs (e.g. *complain*, *look*) we need a preposition BEFORE the object:

verb	+	object	verb	+	preposition	+	object
Jim	phoned	the shop	and	complained	about	his new vacuum cleaner.	
Sue	ate	a sandwich	and	looked	at	a magazine.	

Look at the word order in questions:

Are you **complaining about** the camera? Which camera are you **complaining about**?  
What are you **looking at**?

## 2 Verb + preposition

Here are some common verbs + prepositions:

verb + to	belong to explain to listen to speak to talk to write to
verb + about	complain about read about speak about talk about think about
verb + for	apply for look for pay for wait for work for
verb + in	arrive in believe in get in live in succeed in stay in
verb + of	approve of think of
verb + on	depend on decide on
verb + at	arrive at laugh at look at stay at
verb + with	agree with stay with

We've been **waiting for** half an hour! What are you **listening to**?  
Maria is right. I **agree with** her.

- ⚠ If there is a verb after the preposition, we use the *-ing* form:  
*X I'm thinking of buy a new car. ✓ I'm thinking of buying a new car.*
- ⚠ We don't use *to* after the verbs *ask*, *answer*, *call*, *phone* and *thank*:  
*X Please phone to me later. ✓ Please phone me later.*
- ⚠ We don't use *about* after *discuss*:  
*X We discussed about the weather. ✓ We discussed the weather.*

## 3 Verb + to/about

We often use *to* before people and *about* before things:  
I saw Lucy **talking to** Jake. They were **talking about** Jake's party.

A verb can be followed by more than one preposition + noun in a sentence:  
I **complained to the manager about the vacuum cleaner.**