

101 Verb + preposition (2)



1 Verb + preposition + object

After some verbs, the preposition we use depends on the object:

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| arrive | arrive <i>in</i> (a town or country) | When did you <i>arrive in</i> England? |
| | arrive <i>at</i> (any other place) | The train <i>arrived at</i> Victoria Station at six o'clock. |
| pay | pay (a person or a bill) (no preposition) | My mother <i>paid</i> the bill / the waiter. |
| | pay <i>for</i> (a thing) | I haven't <i>paid for</i> the tickets yet. |
| stay | stay <i>in/at</i> (a place) | She <i>stayed at</i> the Hilton Hotel last month. |
| | stay <i>with</i> (a person) | I'm <i>staying with</i> my cousins for the holidays. |

2 Different preposition, different meaning

The meaning of some verbs changes with the prepositions, eg:

- *look at* = turn your eyes towards something or someone:
'Look at the clock. We're late!'
- *look for* = try to find something:
Excuse me. I'm looking for Dr Watson's office. Do you know where it is?
- *look after* = take care of someone/something:
A friend looks after the children while Emily is at work.
- *look like* = have a similar appearance:
Michael looks like his grandfather. They are both tall and slim.

3 Verb + object + preposition

With some verbs (e.g. *ask, thank, invite, tell*) we need a preposition AFTER the object:

verb object preposition
I asked the stranger for directions to the post office.

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| ask somebody for something | Did you ask the doctor for some advice? |
| thank somebody for something | The manager thanked the staff for their hard work. |
| invite somebody to something | I invited Carla to my party. |
| tell somebody about something | Have you told your parents about your new job yet? |