

# 89 Verb + preposition (1)



Peter Edwards **succeeded in** winning first prize in this year's 'Young Baseball Star' competition. His father and grandfather were there to **congratulate him on** his success.

## 1 Verb (+ preposition) + object

With many verbs in English we can put a noun/pronoun **object** straight after the verb:  
*British people **discuss the weather** every time they meet!*

But other verbs need a preposition before the object:

*British people **talk about the weather** every time they meet!*

⚠ There are many verbs that don't need a preposition in English, (e.g. *answer, demand, discuss, enter, expect, leave, phone, request*):

~~Everyone clapped when he entered to the room.~~ ✓ *Everyone clapped when he entered the room.*

## 2 Verb + preposition combinations

Some verbs can be followed by different prepositions, (e.g. *talk to/talk about*). It is a good idea to check these in a dictionary.

+ <b>about</b>	<i>complain hear know read speak talk think write</i>
+ <b>at</b>	<i>arrive laugh look shout stay</i>
+ <b>for</b>	<i>apologise apply ask care look pay search wait work</i>
+ <b>in</b>	<i>arrive believe stay succeed</i>
+ <b>into</b>	<i>bump crash drive run</i>
+ <b>of</b>	<i>approve consist hear think</i>
+ <b>on</b>	<i>concentrate decide depend rely insist</i>
+ <b>to</b>	<i>belong explain happen listen speak talk write</i>
+ <b>with</b>	<i>agree deal stay</i>

*The Prime Minister **apologised for** Britain's involvement in the slave trade.*

*The music next door is so loud that I can't **concentrate on** my work.*

*Ahmed's job is to **deal with** difficult customers.*

It is possible to have more than one preposition + noun combination after a verb:

*I spoke **to the manager** last week **about the problem** with the car.*

## 3 Verb + object + preposition + object

Some verbs can have two objects after them, one with a preposition and one without:

- *congratulate + person + on: Peter's father **congratulated him on** his success.*
- *accuse/remind + person + of: She **reminded the player of** his appointment with the coach.*
- *ask/blame/criticise/punish + person + for: Don't **blame me for** your mistakes!*
- *compare/provide/share + person/thing + with: The assistants will **provide you with** paper.*
- *borrow/translate/prevent + person/thing + from: Do you **translate texts from** English?*

Notice the difference between *to* and *at* after *throw, kick, shout* and *point*:

*He threw the ball **to** the girl.* (for her to catch it)

*He threw the ball **at** the girl.* (to hit her)

Verbs with two objects ➤ Unit 59.5