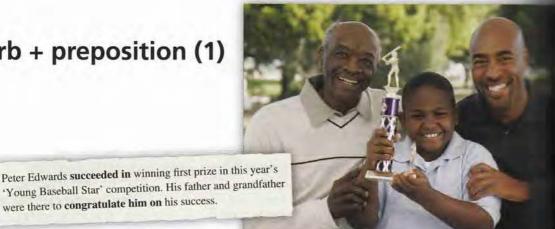
89 Verb + preposition (1)



'Young Baseball Star' competition. His father and grandfather were there to congratulate him on his success.

Verb (+ preposition) + object 1

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.

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

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