

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

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Many **verbs** that are used **without** an object are normally followed by a prepositional phrase.

Some verbs take a particular preposition:

belong to	hope for	listen to
consist of	insist on	pay for
relate to	hint at	lead to

*The land belongs to a rich family.*

*She then referred to the Minister's report.*

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

With **other** verbs that are used without an object, the choice of a different preposition may alter the meaning of the clause.

Agree on/with  
result from/in  
conform to/with

apologize for/to  
appeal for/with  
suffer from/with

I **suffer from** stress

I **suffer with** you the consequences

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

With verbs that are used without an object, **different prepositions** are used to introduce different types of information.

• **‘ABOUT’** indicates the subject matter

care	dream	hear	speak	talk
think	complain	explain	know	write

*We will always care about freedom.  
Tonight I'm going to talk about engines.*

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

- **'AT'** indicates direction

glance	grin	look
smile	glare	laugh
shout	stare	

*I don't know why he was laughing at that joke.*

*'Hey!' - she shouted at him.*

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

- **'FOR'** indicates purpose or reason

apologize	apply	ask
look	wait	search

*He wanted to apologize for being late.*

*I'm going to wait for the next bus.*

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

- **'INTO'** indicates the object involved in a collision

bump	crash	drive	run
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*His car crashed into the wall.*

*She drove into the back of the lorry.*

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

- **'OF'** indicates facts or information

hear	know	speak	talk	thing
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*I've heard of him but I don't know who he is.  
Do you know of the new plans for the sports center?*



# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

- **'ON'** indicates confidence or certainty

rely	count	depend	plan
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*You can count on me.*

*You can rely on him to be polite.*

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

- **'TO'** indicates the listener or reader

complain	listen	speak	talk
write	explain	say	

*They complained to me about the noise.*

*Mary turned her head to speak to him.*

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

- **'WITH'** indicates someone whose opinion is the same or different

agree	argue	disagree	side
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*Do you agree with me about this?*

*The daughters sided with their mothers.*

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

Some verbs have an object, but are also followed by a preposition.

*The police accused him of murder.*

*The borrowed some money from the bank.*

# VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

Some verbs can take either an object or a prepositional phrase with no change in meaning.

*He had to fight them, even if it was wrong.*

*He was fighting against history.*