

We do not use to with these verbs:

phone / telephone / call somebody

Did you phone your father yesterday? (not phone to your father)

answer somebody/something

□ He refused to **answer my question**. (*not* answer to my question) **ask** somebody

□ Can I ask you a question? (not ask to you)

thank somebody (for something)

□ He thanked me for helping him. (not He thanked to me)

Some verbs can be followed by at or to, with a difference of meaning. For example:

shout AT somebody (when you are angry)

He got very angry and started shouting at me.

shout TO somebody (so that they can hear you)

He shouted to me from the other side of the street.

throw something AT somebody/something (in order to hit them)

□ Somebody threw an egg at the minister.

throw something TO somebody (for somebody to catch)

Lisa shouted 'Catch!' and threw the keys to me from the window.

remind somebody ABOUT ... = tell somebody not to forget

I'm glad you reminded me about the meeting. I'd completely forgotten about it.

remind somebody OF ... = cause somebody to remember

□ This house reminds me of the one I lived in when I was a child.

Look at this photograph of Richard. Who does he remind you of?

complain (TO somebody) ABOUT ... = say that you are not satisfied

□ We complained to the manager of the restaurant about the food.

complain OF a pain, an illness etc. = say that you have a pain etc.

We called the doctor because George was complaining of a pain in his stomach.

warn somebody ABOUT a person or thing which is bad, dangerous, unusual etc.

I knew he was a strange person. I had been warned about him. (not warned of him)

Vicky warned me about the traffic. She said it would be bad.

warn somebody ABOUT/OF a danger, something bad which might happen later Scientists have warned us about/of the effects of global warming. dream ABOUT ... (when you are asleep)

I dreamt about you last night.

dream OF/ABOUT being something / doing something = imagine
Do you dream of/about being rich and famous?

- (I) wouldn't dream OF doing something = I would never do it
- Don't tell anyone what I said.' 'No, I wouldn't dream of it.' (= I would never do it)

hear ABOUT ... = be told about something

Did you hear about what happened at the club on Saturday night?

hear OF ... = know that somebody/something exists

" 'Who is Tom Hart?' 'I have no idea. I've never heard of him'. (not heard from him)

hear FROM ... = receive a letter, phone call or message from somebody

'Have you heard from Jane recently?' 'Yes, she phoned a few days ago.'

think ABOUT ... and think OF ...

When you think ABOUT something, you consider it, you concentrate your mind on it:

- □ I've thought about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- Will you lend me the money?' 'I'll think about it.'

When you think OF something, the idea comes to your mind:

- He told me his name, but I can't think of it now. (not think about it)
- That's a good idea. Why didn't I think of that? (not think about that)

We also use think of when we ask or give an opinion:

What did you think of the film?' 'I didn't think much of it.' (= I didn't like it much)

The difference is sometimes very small and you can use of or about:

□ When I'm alone, I often think of (or about) you.

You can say think of or think about doing something (for possible future actions):

□ My sister is thinking of (or about) going to Canada. (= she is considering it)

Care about, care for and take care of

care ABOUT somebody/something = think that somebody/something is important He's very selfish. He doesn't care about other people.

We say 'care what/where/how ...' etc. (without about)

You can do what you like. I don't care what you do.

care FOR somebody/something

(1) = like something (usually in questions and negative sentences)

□ Would you care for a cup of coffee? (= Would you like ... ?)

I don't care for very hot weather. (= I don't like ...)

(2) = look after somebody

Alan is 85 and lives alone. He needs somebody to care for him.

take care OF ... = look after

Have a nice holiday. Take care of yourself! (= look after yourself)

Task 1 Choose the correct variant: 1. Do you believe ... ghosts? in on about 2. She spent years caring ... her sick husband. about for of 3. This spray will protect you ... most insects. of from with 4. He has yet to recover ... his illness. of from with off 5. He won the national bravery award for saving his friend ... drowning. from of at 6. He worked hard to succeed ... life. at in on 7. I don't approve ... your conduct, young man. with of off about

8. He suffers ... asthma. of from with 9. That shampoo smells ... jasmine. about of off 10. Please don't make a noise. I want to concentrate ... my studies. of on from 11. My husband and I can't agree ... anything but we love each other. on with about 12. Please refer ... the glossary for more information. at with to Task 2 Put the correct preposition into the gaps: 1. She accused me ... telling lies. 2. You can always borrow a dictionary ... the library. 3. Do you believe ... ghosts? 4. The history teacher asked us to comment ... the events taking place in Afghanistan. 5. I am accustomed ... having a lot of money. 6. When the guests arrived ... my house they gave me a bottle of wine. 7. Some people stupidly believe that we are in school to prepare ... our future jobs.

8. The old woman suffered ... lumbago.

9. Oh, you are so right! I agree ... you completely!

- 10. She is very dependable. I always know I can count ... her absolutely.
- 11. I want to congratulate you ... your success.
- 12. You won't always be able to rely ... your parents.
- 13. When you are a mountain guide, you sometimes have to wait a long time ... the tourists.
- 14. My banker told me not to draw all the money ... of my bank account.
- 15. I must insist ... your learning these verbs!
- 16. Are you accusing me ... being too strict?
- 17. How does the man account ... having all that money in his pocket?
- 18. The workmen would like to speak ... the manager.
- 19. The visitors objected ... the horrible rooms.
- 20. I always try to agree ... my twin sister, because it makes her angry if I don't.
- 21. I just couldn't agree ... his plan, it was much too dangerous!
- 22. Young people today can communicate ... each other using a lot of different machines.
- 23. It was your fault! Don't try to blame me ... the accident!!
- 24. The head teacher threatened me ... expulsion if I didn't behave better.
- 25. Don't forget to thank your parents ... putting up with you all these years!

Task 3

Choose the correct preposition:



11 The careers officer will provide you all the relevant information about the job.

12 I always turn my father for advice. He's like a wise owl.

Task 4

Put the correct preposition into the gaps:

- to, for, of, from, about, with, on, -
- 1. I need you to explain ... Peter the updated process.
- 2. I'm waiting ... your answer.
- 3. We're keeping ... the money until next week.
- 4. I thought ... you when I heard that song.
- 5. They are thinking ... going to Rome at Easter.
- 6. Don't worry ... it. It'll go according to plan.
- 7. Have you heard ... your mother recently?
- 8. Have you heard the news ... the merger?
- 9. It's a bad situation, we really should do something ... it. (to resolve something)
- 10. We've paid for it, so we should do something ... it. (to use something)
- 11. Everybody blamed me ... the accident.
- 12. Everybody blamed the accident ... me.
- 13. They will provide us ... all the necessary documents at the service desk.
- 14. We need to arrange ... the meeting soon.
- 15. I don't trust ... him at all!