

## Unit 127 Verb + preposition (3)

Study this list of *verbs + preposition*:

- search** (a person / a place / a bag etc.) **FOR** someone/something:
- I've **searched** the whole house **for** my keys but I still can't find them.
  - The police are **searching for** the escaped prisoner.
- shout AT** someone (*when you are angry*):
- He was very angry and started **shouting at** me.
- but: shout TO* someone (*so that they can hear you*):
- He **shouted to** me from the other side of the street.
- speak/talk TO** someone ('with' is also possible but less usual):
- (*on the telephone*) Hello, can I **speak to** Jane, please?
  - Who was that man I saw you **talking to** in the pub?
- suffer FROM** an illness:
- The number of people **suffering from** heart disease has increased.
- think ABOUT** someone/something (= *consider, concentrate the mind on*):
- You're quiet morning. What are you **thinking about**?
  - 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.'
- think OF** someone/something (= *remember, bring to mind, have an idea*):
- 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?
- We also use **think OF** when we ask for or give an opinion:
- 'What did you **think of** the film?' 'I didn't **think much of** it.'
- The difference between **think OF** and **think ABOUT** is sometimes very small. Often you can use **OF** or **ABOUT**:
- My sister is **thinking of** (*or about*) going to Canada.
  - Tom was **thinking of** (*or about*) buying a new car but changed his mind.
  - When I'm alone, I often **think of** (*or about*) going to Canada.
- wait FOR** someone/something:
- I'm not going out yet. I'm **waiting for** the rain to stop.
- write TO** someone:
- Sorry I haven't **written to** you for such a long time

We do *not* use a preposition with these verbs:

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|--|---|
| <b>phone</b> someone                     | Did you <b>phone your father</b> yesterday?       |
| <b>discuss</b> something                 | We <b>discussed many things</b> at the meeting.   |
| <b>enter</b> (= <i>go into a place</i> ) | She felt nervous as she <b>entered the room</b> . |

For verbs + preposition + **-ing** see **Unit 60a**.

- That's a good idea. Why didn't I **think of** that?