

Prepositions After Verbs

The mistakes that sound unnatural immediately

WHAT THIS LESSON IS ABOUT

- Not a full list of every case.
- Not abstract grammar.
- Just the most common mistake, the rule behind it, and practice.

THE REAL PROBLEM

Here is what happens. You learn a verb. You use it confidently. But the preposition that follows it in English is different from your language — or there is no preposition where you expect one — or there is one where you expect nothing.

These mistakes are hard to catch because you are thinking about the verb, not the preposition. **Native speakers notice immediately** — not because the meaning is unclear, but because the combination sounds wrong.

KEY IDEA

Verbs and prepositions in English come in fixed pairs. You cannot translate them from your language. You need to learn the pair.

SEE IT IN ACTION

GROUP 1 — VERBS THAT NEED A PREPOSITION YOU MIGHT MISS

Some verbs always need a specific preposition before the object — but learners leave it out.

'I am waiting for you' — not 'waiting you.'

'I am listening to music' — not 'listening music.'

'I am thinking about it' — not 'thinking it.'

'I agree with you' — not 'agree you.'

The fix: learn these verbs with their preposition as one unit. Wait for. Listen to. Think about. Agree with.

GROUP 2 — VERBS THAT NEED NO PREPOSITION

Some verbs take a direct object — no preposition between verb and noun. Learners add one from their language.

'I called him' — not 'called to him.'

'I contacted her' — not 'contacted with her.'

'I entered the room' — not 'entered into the room.'

'I discussed the plan' — not 'discussed about the plan.'

The fix: after these verbs, the object comes immediately. Nothing in between.

GROUP 3 — VERBS WHERE THE PREPOSITION CHANGES MEANING

'I am good at English' — skill. 'I am good in English class' — location or context.

'I depend on my team' — rely on. 'She insisted on paying' — demanded.

'I am interested in the job' — not 'interested about' or 'interested for.'

'He apologised for being late' — not 'apologised about.'

The fix: for these verbs, memorise the preposition as part of the phrase.

PRACTICE

Each sentence has a preposition error. Pause and fix it before reading the answer.

1. I am waiting you outside.

I am waiting for you outside.

2. She discussed about the budget with the team.

She discussed the budget with the team.

3. He is very good in speaking English.

He is very good at speaking English.

4. I called to him three times.

I called him three times.

5. They apologised about arriving late.

They apologised for arriving late.

TODAY'S SMALL ACTION

Pick three verbs from this lesson that you use regularly. Write one sentence with each — with the correct preposition. That is it. Three sentences.

Want more practice? The members edition has a full list of 20 verb-preposition pairs, error recognition exercises, and a self-check quiz.