

Verbs with the Prepositions **TO and AT**

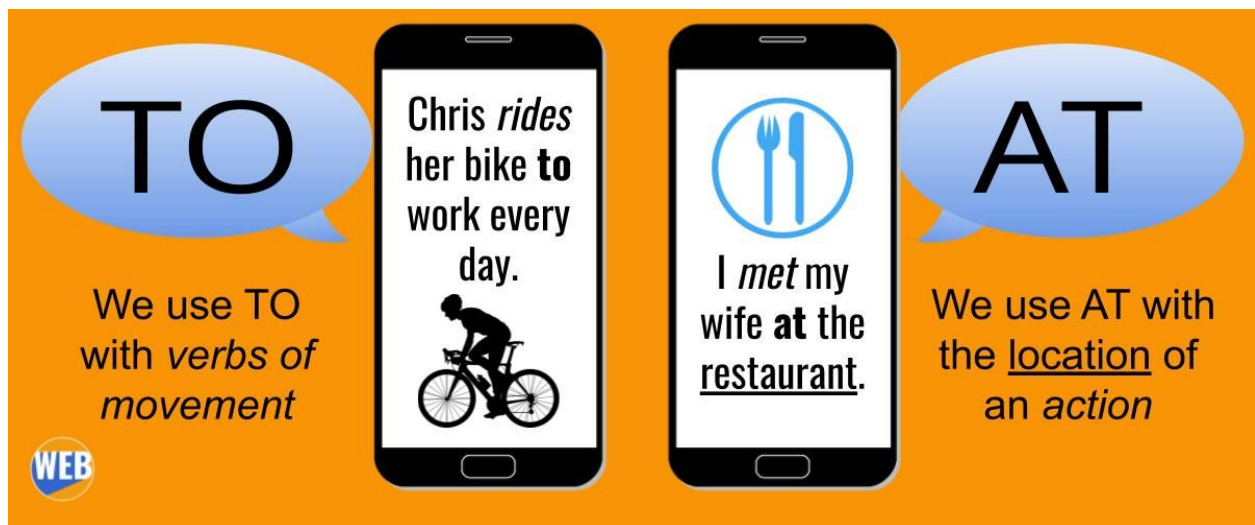
VERBS +

to & at

English verbs with prepositions (TO and AT) PDF

Learn how to use verbs with prepositions in this post. The prepositions TO and AT are used with some common English verbs.

Verbs with TO	
go to	Let's go to the mall!
write to	I wrote a long email to my boss.
send to	I sent the email to him this morning.
talk to	Has anyone talked to Ian today?
apologize to	I have to apologize to him for last night.
Verbs with AT	
meet at	Let's meet at the mall!
look at	What are you looking at ?
stare at	It's not polite to stare at people.
point at	Taylor pointed at the building where she works.
shoot at	Larry likes to shoot his BB gun at paper targets in his backyard.



The Prepositions TO and AT

The English preposition TO has 18 different meanings according to Oxford Learners

Dictionaries.com ([LINK](#)) The preposition AT has 12 uses! ([LINK](#))

As a language teacher AND a language student, I feel that the best way to learn preposition/verb combinations is to hear and see them used in natural sentences.

However, there are two simple guides for using the Prepositions TO and AT with verbs that I think will be helpful for you.

TO with verbs of movement

We move in the direction of a place; we move towards something

- *in the direction of something; towards something*

I flew **to** California when I was 20.

Chris rides her bike **to** work every day. Her dad drives **to** the office.

It's 8:00. Time to go **to** school.

AT with the location of an action

We do something AT a place

- *used to say where something/somebody is*

I was **at** home all day on Sunday.

- *or where something happens*

I met my wife **at** the hotel.

Chris sees Neil **at** work every day.

I used to hang out with my friends **at** the mall when I was in high school.



Verbs followed by TO

Here are some common verbs that are used with the preposition TO

write TO

I wrote an angry letter **to** the mayor last week about the condition of the roads in town. I want my city taxes to be used to improve the terrible streets near my office. There are big holes in the road!

I write an email **to** my family in Canada twice a week. I don't see them very often so emails let me stay in touch.

send TO

*Send is more common than write these days. Some people still write letters but emails and instant messaging apps are very common.

I sent an angry email **to** the mayor last week about the condition of the roads in town.

I send an email **to** my family in Canada twice a week. I don't see them very often so emails let me stay in touch

send TO is still used for letters, cards or packages that travel through the mail.

I have to send my Christmas gifts **to** Canada from Japan in early November. If I don't they may not arrive before December 25th!

apologize TO

*We apologize **to** *someone* for something

I apologized **to** *everyone at the meeting* for being late.

The next day, Roger apologized **to** *Andrea* for what he said during the argument.

talk to

I saw you talking **to** the boss this morning. What did he say?

Has anyone talked **to** Ian today? I need to know if he is coming to the office party on Friday.

*Talk **with** is also used sometimes, but talk **to** is more common

I saw you talking **with** the boss this morning. What did he say?

Common mistakes with verbs + TO

TALK is a verb of communication, so many students feel like the preposition **to** fits with other similar verbs. We do not use the preposition **to** with the verbs CALL (PHONE), ASK, ANSWER, and THANK.

It's already 5:30 and I still have more work to do! I'd better CALL my wife and tell her that I'll be late today.

(I'd better CALL ~~to~~ my wife...)

Already-Until-Still [\[link\]](#)

I ASKED Don to help me.

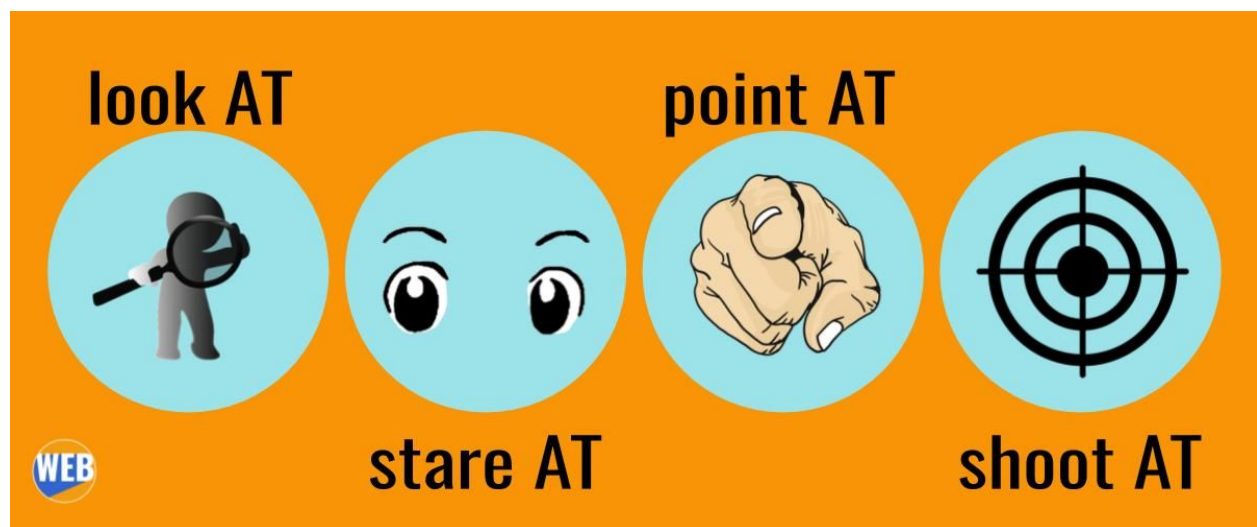
(I ASKED ~~to~~ Don...)

Can anyone in class ANSWER this question?

(Can anyone in class ANSWER ~~to~~ this question?)

I thanked Don for his help.

(I thanked ~~to~~ Don for his help.)



Verbs followed by AT

Here are some common verbs that are used with the preposition AT

Look AT

*We look **at** someone, something

Hey Dave, could you look **at** my homework? I'm not sure if this English is correct.

*We also stare **at** someone, something

There was a strange guy on the train this morning. He was staring **at** me for 15 minutes.

AT is also used with the phrasal verbs *have a look at* and *take a look at*.

My computer has been acting strange. I need to get an expert to *take a look at* it.

laugh AT

I tripped at the office and everyone laughed **at** me. I was so embarrassed.

point AT

Taylor pointed **at** the building where she works.

shoot AT

The riot police shot rubber bullets **at** the angry crowd.



Verbs with TO and AT - different meaning

Some verbs are used before both prepositions with a difference in meaning.

SHOUT **AT** - SHOUT **TO**

You shout **at** someone if you are mad at them.

~My Dad shouted **at** me for 20 minutes after I broke the window.

You shout **to** someone if you want their attention. You want them to notice you.

~I saw my friend across the street. I shouted **to** him so he knew I was here.

THROW **AT** - THROW **TO**

If you throw something **at** someone/something you want to hit them.

~When my brother and I were younger we used to go in the backyard after it snowed and threw snowballs **at** each other.

If you throw something **to** someone you want them to catch it.

~The fielder quickly threw the ball **to** first base.

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