

Verb + preposition 1 **to and at**

A

Verb + **to****talk / speak TO** somebody (**with** is also possible but less usual)

- ☐ Who was that man you were **talking to**?

**listen TO** ...

- ☐ We spent the evening **listening to** music. (*not listening music*)

**apologise TO** somebody (for ...)

- ☐ They **apologised to me** for what happened. (*not They apologised me*)

**explain** something **TO** somebody

- ☐ Can you **explain** this word **to me**? (*not explain me this word*)

**explain / describe (to somebody)** what/how/why ...

- ☐ I **explained to them** why I was worried. (*not I explained them*)  
☐ Let me **describe to you** what I saw. (*not Let me describe you*)

B

We do not use **to** with these verbs:**phone / call / email / text** somebody

- ☐ I **called the airline** to cancel my flight. (*not called to the airline*)

*but* **write** (a letter) **to** somebody**answer** somebody/something

- ☐ He refused to **answer my question**. (*not answer to my question*)

*but* **reply to** an email / a letter etc.**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*)

C

Verb + **at****look / stare / glance AT** ... , **have a look / take a look AT** ...

- ☐ Why are you **looking at** me like that?

**laugh AT** ...

- ☐ I look stupid with this haircut. Everybody will **laugh at** me.

**aim / point** (something) **AT** ... , **shoot / fire** (a gun) **AT** ...

- ☐ Don't **point** that knife **at** me. It's dangerous.  
☐ We saw someone with a gun **shooting at** birds, but he didn't hit any.

D

Some verbs can be followed by **at** or **to**, with a difference in 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.