

English Prepositions: “to” vs “for” (PT: para)

As preposições **to** ou **for**, são expressas através da preposição **para**. Em geral, pode-se dizer que **to** está ligado à ideia de direção, movimento e destino. Mas **for** está geralmente relacionado com a ideia de razão ou para o benefício de alguém.

| to (destination) | for (reason) |
|---|---|
| <p>I drove from Chicago to New York. I gave some flowers to Jane. I sent an e-mail to Bob. We went to a restaurant last night.</p> <p>(the verbs “drive”, “give”, “send” “say”, “go”, “travel” demand a destination, so use “to”)</p> | <p>I drove from Chicago to NY for a meeting. I gave some flowers to Jane for her birthday. I sent an e-mail to Bob for no reason. We went to a restaurant last night for dinner.</p> |
| to (second verb) | for (benefit) |
| <p>I want to see that film. I intend to travel a lot next year. He hates to wash the dishes.</p> | <p>I repaired a bicycle for Bob. He bought a book for Mary. I did a favour for Julie. I do puzzles for my brain.</p> <p>(the verbs “repair”, “buy”, “do”, “fix”, “make”, “cook” don’t demand a destination, but they can <u>benefit</u> somebody, so use “for”)</p> |

Examples: I asked her **to give** the keys **to me**.

I took my son **to the hospital for an operation**.

This restaurant is **for romantic couples**.

I went **to Miami to visit** my uncle.

I made lunch **for Lucy**.

I bought some books **for you to read**.

Sometimes, there are two options:

I took my parents **to the club for lunch**. (*reason*)

I took my parents **to the club to have** lunch. (*second verb*)

I went **to the gym for exercise**. (*reason*)

I went **to the gym to do** exercise. (*second verb*)

Suggested videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ9KJXozWvg> (13 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVDh-iifKAs> (20 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p69D-YvSu1o> (10 mins)

There are also **fixed combinations** of verbs and prepositions. For example:

*pay attention to, listen to, say to
pay for, wait for, be responsible for*

- Yesterday, I **paid for** the lunch with a credit card.
- Simon rarely **pays attention to** the teacher.
- A: What are you doing? B: I'm **waiting for** a bus.
- He is **responsible for** sales.
- Please **listen to** the lyrics.
- She **said to** me that she is pregnant. OMG!

Exercise. Complete the following with 'for' or 'to'. Also, write the context.

Context of the preposition
(destination, second verb, reason,
benefit, fixed combination)

Example: Let me carry that **for** you. benefit

1. I gave \$100 _____ my son. _____

2. She's responsible _____ Jimmy. _____

3. I send many e-mails _____ to Bob every day. _____

4. I stopped smoking _____ my health. _____

5. He wants _____ earn more money. _____

6. Always listen _____ your parents. _____

7. Does Julie cook dinner _____ you? _____

8. My dog loves _____ go out with me. _____

9. Can you do a favour _____ me? _____