

TO

How can a tiny word like “to” cause so many problems? It’s a preposition so we are using it to indicate position, as in a word positioned before something else to show that words relationship to another nearby word. For example: “Give the ball to the dog.”

Basically, we are using it to indicate movement or direction to someone, something or someplace:

Rosy talked to her boss. = person

Rosy walked to her car. = thing

Rosy went to the office. = place

<p>Movement = from one place to another: Do you usually ride your bicycle to work? = movement in the direction towards work. Have you been to Rome? = from where you are now to Italy.</p>	<p>Destination / direction = where “movement” from one person to another is involved. Someone is receiving the action: If you feel sick, you should talk to a doctor. = the doctor will be receiving the action from the patient. What did you do to him? = an action directed to someone.</p>	<p>Distance/length of time: It’s only 2km from my house to the park. The flight to London is 14 hours.</p>	<p>A limit/end point: After the flash flood the water came up to my knees. The tickets could cost up to \$500.</p>	<p>Intention: Send this file to Rosy. = sending something to a recipient. You are expecting an action.</p>
<p>Preferences: Rosy prefers chocolate to vanilla ice cream. We prefer spring to summer.</p>	<p>Invitations: Rosy invited us to a party.</p>	<p>Time = telling the time and time between two points: It is a quarter to 3. The bank is open from 9 to 3.</p>	<p>Reason: I went to the store to buy milk. = 1st is movement / destination; the 2nd is an infinitive verb marker to indicate the reason.</p>	<p>Complement: To make a perfect pizza you need to have good quality cheese. = a phrase to complete the meaning of something.</p>

To can also be used in what is known as collocations. This is where words are commonly used together. For example:
Listen to Married to Belong to According to Consent to Conform to Related to Reaction to Face up to

Finally, because to is a preposition you also must remember **NOT** to use it with another preposition or with a modal verb:

I went ~~for~~ to the bank to take out some money.

I can ~~to~~ swim

So, when can we use “to” and when can’t we?



Explain to
Intend to
Listen to
Present to
Recommend to
Reply to
Say to
Speak to
Talk to
With reference to
Write to



Ask to
Call to
Can to
Convince to
Criticise to
Help to
Influence to
Inform to
Invite to
Know to
Must to
Protect to
Support to
Tell to