

# "To" Versus "For"

## 1) When to use "to"

Use "to" when there is some kind of transfer happening or something is being moved from one place to another. "To" expresses direction.

Here are a few examples:

"We went from the restaurant to the party."

"Talk to your teacher and get more information about the exam."

"I go to the office every morning at 9am."

"He sold his car to me for \$5,000."

## 2) When to use "for"

1) Use "for" when something is being done to benefit something or someone else.

2) Use "for" when you are trying to express purpose or the reason that something is happening

Examples:

"I bought this gift for you."

"He runs for his health."

"Bring this tea upstairs for your grandmother."

"Buckle up for safety."

## 3) Now compare both

Example 1:

"My friend brought lunch to me." (My friend physically carried the lunch and delivered it to me.)

versus

"My friend brought lunch for me." (My friend paid for my lunch because he wanted to do something nice for me.)

Example 2:

"I made a quick phone call to my mom." (I called with the intention of speaking with my mom.)

versus

"I made a quick phone call for my mom." (My mom wasn't able to make the call so I made the call for her.)

#### 4) Now take a quiz!

Mary: Thanks for helping me move into my new apartment, Mike!

Mike: Oh you are welcome, it'll be much easier \_\_\_1\_\_ you if I help.

Mary: Are any of your friends going to come and help also?

Mike: Yeah, I think Jason is going to come. He'll bring the moving van \_\_2\_\_ your house on Saturday morning at 9am so we can get started.

Mary: Oh great. I want to cook some lunch \_\_3\_\_ you guys. What do you like?

Mike: Why don't we just take a lunch break and head down \_\_4\_\_ my favorite Japanese restaurant? It's right next to your new apartment.

Mary: That sounds like a great way to break up the day and to get some more energy \_\_5\_\_ the rest of the afternoon.

Mike: Perfect! Then I will see you on Saturday around 10am.

Mary: Great, see ya then

Answers: 1- for, 2- to, 3- for, 4- to, 5- for