

Most verbs take *de*.

Il refuse (*cesse*) *de* travailler.
He refuses (*ceases*) to work.

Il promet *de* venir.
He promises to come.

Il est difficile *de* venir.
It is difficult to come.

Il oublie *de* venir.
He forgets to come.

Il nous dit *de* venir.
He tells us to come.

Il est bon *de* travailler. (25)
It is good to work.

A few verbs take *à*.

Il nous *aide* (*encourage*) *à* travailler. Il nous force (*oblige*) *à* lire.
He helps (*encourages*) us to work. He compels (*obliges*) us to read

Il s'*efforce* (*commence*) *à* voir. Tout concourt *à* me retarder.
He exerts himself (*commences*) to see. Everything concurs to retard me. (26)

Pour or *afin de*

J'ai ouvert la fenêtre *pour* laisser entrer l'air.
I opened the window *for* to let enter the air.

Il faut manger *pour* vivre, et non vivre *pour* manger.
It is necessary to eat to live, and not to live in order to eat.

On fait cela *afin de* voir (*or* *pour* voir).
We do that *in order to* see.

To express the idea of *order to* we use *POUR* or *AFIN DE*. Old English used *FOR TO*, but now the *for* is dropped.

The Imperative

The Indicative mood *indicates* or states a fact; the Imperative mood *commands* (or requests).

Vous parlez (Indic.)	Parlez! (Imp.)	Tu parles.	Parle!
You speak.	Speak (you).	Thou speakest.	Speak (thou).
Vous courez.	Courez!	Tu cours.	Cours!
You run.	Run (you).	Thou runnest.	Run (thou).
Nous parlons.	Parlons!	Nous courons.	Courons!
We speak.	Let us speak.	We run.	Let us run.

Vous *me* passez le sucre. Passez-moi le sucre. Passe-moi le sucre.
You pass me the sugar. Pass (you) me the sugar. Pass (thou) me etc.

(25) In all impersonal constructions like this (excepting *IL FAUT*) the *de* is necessary.

(26) The student should note other examples of the preposition *à* when they occur. It is chiefly verbs denoting *tending towards* (such as *preparing*, *trying*, *forcing*, etc.) that require it.