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Search for, Seek (no preposition), Look for

These verbs are used to talk about trying to find something, but often one is a better choice than the others to talk about certain objects or to express different meanings.

Search **for**/searched **for**/searched **for** (emphasis on the act of investigating)

- My friends argued about it for an hour, but I searched for the information for two minutes and found the correct answer on Google.
- The police were aggressive as they searched for evidence.
- Dr. Salk spent years in a lab searching for a vaccine for polio.

Seek/sought/sought (*formal*, intangible, something to fulfill a role – rather than one specific object)

- He writes a lot of poetry about seeking meaning in life.
- The men who were wrongly imprisoned are now seeking justice.
- She hates hospitals, but she finally agreed to seek treatment for her illness.
- The animal ran down the street, seeking shelter from the rain.
- Our company seeks a candidate for this job who has a lot of experience.

Look **for**/looked **for**/looked **for** (something you have lost or need, examine)

- I'm looking for that file I wanted to show you on my computer.
- I am planning to move to a new city, so I have to look for a job/an apartment.
- My mom lost her job, so I'm looking for ways to help her.
- We hired a professional inspector to look for signs of damage in the old house.