When a question word is the object of a preposition, the preposition usually comes at the end of the clause, especially in an informal style.

**What** are you looking **for**? (More natural than ‘For what are looking?’)

**Who** is this present **for**? (For whom is this present? is extremely formal.)

**Who** were you speaking **to**? (NOT To whom were you speaking?)

**Which** pictures are you talking **about**?

**What** are you laughing **at**?

**Who** put the cat **in**?

**Who** turned the lights **off**?

Prepositions come at the end of clauses in indirect *wh*-questions and *what*-clauses which are not questions.

Tell me **what you are looking for**. (NOT Tell me for what you are looking.)

**What** a lot of trouble I have gotten **into**! (NOT Into what a lot of trouble I have gotten.)

Some questions consist of simply a question word and preposition.

What with?
Who for?
What about?

Note that this structure is unusual when there is a noun with the question word.

**With** what money? (NOT What money with?)

**Exercise**

Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.

1. What are you crying ________?
2. Who shall I give this ________?
3. What are you waiting ________?
4. Which writer were you talking ________?
5. Which candidate have you voted ________?

**Answers**

1. for
2. to
3. for
4. about
5. for