

To die of

To die from



## The differences between **die +** preposition

- |     |                    |   |                                     |
|-----|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1.  | die of             | - | direct cause                        |
| 2.  | die from           | - | indirect cause                      |
| 3.  | die by             | - | the means of something              |
| 4.  | die in             | - | place/year                          |
| 5.  | die through        | - | abstract action/emotion             |
| 6.  | die on             | - | position/contact                    |
| 7.  | die at             | - | position/near                       |
| 8.  | die for            | - | a cause, object, reason, or purpose |
| 9.  | die with           | - | physically near/in addition         |
| 10. | die as a result of | - | condition leading to death          |
| 11. | die a              | - | status (noun)                       |
| 12. | die + adjective    | - | state                               |
| 13. | die within         | - | period of time                      |
| 14. | die because of     | - | general condition                   |
| 15. | die under          | - | use of preposition                  |
| 16. | die to             | - | future reason                       |

The first two are the most difficult: **to die of** should indicate **the direct/actual/real cause**, while **to die from** should indicate **the indirect cause**.

So, what really was the “killer”?

He **died from** an explosion (there was an explosion, he was involved, he received severe injuries, there was a lot of blood loss, he **died of** hemorrhage).

He **died of** an explosion (there was an explosion, he was involved, he was a suicide bomber, there was nothing left of the body).

- 1) To die of: (**This refers to the direct cause or a disease**) to die of AIDS, to die of bird flu, to die of hunger, to die of a heart attack, to die of cancer, to die of pneumonia, to die of childbirth.
- 2) To die from: (**This refers to an indirect agent**) to die from car/road accidents, to die from stroke, to die from a wound, to die from smoking, to die from drinking, to die from sudden death, to die from a weapon, to die from injury, to die from war.
- 3) To die by: (**This refers to the means of**) to die by the sword, to die by suicide, to die by overdose, to die by a bullet, to die by violence, to die by his own hand.
- 4) To die in: in battle; in bed, in your twenties (age), hospital, 1989.
- 5) To die through: neglect, euthanasia, a process.
- 6) To die on: the cross, the scaffold, holiday.
- 7) To die at: the stake, the weekend, home.
- 8) To die for: a cause, object, reason, or purpose, the sake of one.
- 9) To die with: dignity, another disease/problem that is not the principle cause of death, with your boots on.
- 10) To die as a result of: condition, normally not the direct cause, leading to death (he died as a result of years of bad diet).
- 11) To die a: noun indicating “status”; he died a man, she died a queen.

12)**To die (adjective):** shown state, he died happy, the dog died contented.

13)**To die within:** a period of time, she died within an hour.

14)**To die because of:** general condition, he died because of the lack of health insurance, she died because of the pandemic.

15)**To die under:** use of the preposition, she died under our care, he died under the weight of his work.

16)**To die to:** (future reason) he died to help his family, she died to get the insurance.

She died **from** exposure to radiation (and then the radiation produced cancer, which caused the death), she died **of** cancer.

The dog died **from** the heat (which led to dehydration and so, death), it died **of** dehydration.

There's a physics joke that says "it's not the fall that kills you; it's the sudden stop at the end". Similarly, if you fell twenty stories, we might say that you died **from** falling, but you died **of** massive trauma and blood loss (caused by the fall).

## What have we learnt?

"you die **of** a direct cause; you die **from** an indirect cause"

