

Prepositions after verbs, adjectives and nouns

A Starting activities

1 Preposition grids

Prepositions after verbs, adjectives and nouns

- 1 Work in pairs or small groups. Copy out *one* of the grids below. Tick (✓) if a combination is possible and cross (×) if it is not possible.

Grid 1	of	for	with	about	at	on
--------	----	-----	------	-------	----	----

laugh	×	×	×	✓		
decide						
ask						
negotiate						
dream						
worry						

Grid 2	at	with	by	of	for	to	about
--------	----	------	----	----	-----	----	-------

fed up	×	✓					
surprised							
married							
nice							
amused							
bored							

Grid 3	for	in	of	to	with
--------	-----	----	----	----	------

sympathy	✓	×	×		
photograph					
reaction					
exception					
damage					
recipe					

When you have finished, look at Activity note 38 on page 147.

- 2 Work in the same pairs or small groups. Decide whether the grid you chose contains verbs, adjectives or nouns. Think of at least three more verbs, adjectives or nouns which can be used with the prepositions in your grid. You can use the lists in the Grammar guide or use other verbs, adjectives or nouns. Make at least three sentences using the three new words you have added and prepositions from the grid. Read your sentences to the class.
Example: *My friends were very rude to the waiter at the restaurant so the next day I went back there and apologized for their behaviour.*

2 I'll pay for the holiday

Prepositions after verbs, adjectives and nouns

- 1 Work in pairs. Take it in turns to persuade your partner *either* to go on holiday with you, *or* to share a flat with you, *or* to marry you. In each case your partner does not want to. (Why not?) Use as many prepositions after verbs, adjectives and nouns as you can, from the lists in the Grammar guide or others. Remember the combinations you use and count them after you have finished talking.
Example: *I have a photograph of the flat here.*
- 2 Work as a class. Who used the highest number of combinations of prepositions after verbs, nouns and adjectives? Tell the class which combinations you used and how you used them. List any interesting combinations that are not listed in the Grammar guide.

B Grammar guide

Particular prepositions combine with particular verbs, adjectives or nouns. Here are some of the most important combinations. If you are not sure of any meanings, look them up in a good dictionary such as the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*.

1 Verbs + prepositions

Jenny paid for the meal.

doing

borrow something from*
deal with
introduce someone to*
laugh about something
laugh at someone
lend something to*
pay for
wait for

speaking

apologize to/for
argue about
ask someone about/for*
complain about
confess to
explain something to
negotiate with
talk about/to
thank someone for*

feeling

ashamed of
believe in
dream about
hope for
worry about

Note that verbs + prepositions marked * are used in verb + *someone/something* + preposition constructions. *Sue introduced her new boyfriend to her family.*

2 Adjectives + prepositions

John was excited about the party.

I am used to working on my own.

positive

amused at/by/about
excited about
good at
interested in
kind of/to
interested in
nice to/of/about
pleased with
proud of

fear

afraid of
anxious about
frightened of
scared of
terrified of

negative

ashamed of
bad at
bored with/by
critical of
disappointed in
fed up with/about
suspicious of
upset about
worried about

surprise and anger

amazed at/by
angry at/with
annoyed at
shocked at/by/about
surprised at/by

descriptive

different from
full of
engaged to
identical to
married to
responsible for
similar to
sure about
used to

3 Nouns + prepositions

Ann gave me a cheque for £30.00.

abstract

advantage of
addiction to
connection with/between
damage to
disadvantage of
exception to/of
increase in
reaction to
sympathy for

concrete

cheque for
friend of
invitation to
photograph of
recipe for
reply to
witness to

C Activities

1 How to write a short play

Prepositions after verbs, adjectives and nouns

- 1 Work in pairs, A and B. Together, choose five adjective, noun or verb + preposition combinations. Use the lists in the Grammar guide to give you ideas, but use others if you want to. You are going to write a dialogue based on one of the situations below. Choose (a), (b) or (c).

Situations

- a A is the host of a party, B is a gatecrasher.
- b A is someone whose flat has just been burgled and B is a friend who is advising her/him.
- c A is someone who needs money badly (what for?) and B is a friend who is giving advice.

- 2 Work in pairs, sitting opposite each other. Decide who is A and who is B. You need one piece of paper between the two of you. A starts the dialogue by writing who he or she is, and writing the first thing he or she wants to say. A then passes the piece of paper to B who reads what A wrote and writes a reply, like this:

A writes:

HOST *What are you doing here?*

(A passes the paper to B.)

B writes:

GATECRASHER *Er, I'm a friend of John's.*

(B passes the paper to A.)

A and B must not talk to each other and must not co-operate in any way. The dialogue must include the five adjective, noun or verb + preposition combinations that you chose. They must come up naturally in the dialogue without any advance planning by A and B.

- 3 Work as a class. With your partner, read your dialogue aloud to the class.

2 The memory game

Prepositions after adjectives, nouns and verbs

- 1 Work in pairs or small groups. First, set up the game. Take four pieces of paper per pair or group and fold each piece of paper in half three times. Tear along the creases to make thirty-two small squares of paper per pair or group. On one side of each piece of paper write an adjective + preposition, noun + preposition or verb + preposition. Use the list in the Grammar guide to give you ideas but use others if you want to. Turn the pieces of paper face down so that you cannot see the adjectives, nouns and verbs + prepositions.
- 2 Work in pairs or small groups. Play the game as follows. Each player takes it in turn to turn over two pieces of paper and read aloud what is on them. If the two pieces of paper have the same preposition the player keeps them, if not the player turns them back face down, keeping them in the same place. You must try to remember where certain prepositions are. The player who has the most pieces of paper at the end of the game is the winner.

3 Trouble at Hamlet's castle: almost everybody is dead

Prepositions after adjectives, nouns and verbs

Work in pairs or groups or as a class. Imagine that any story from history or fiction has just happened and write it as a newspaper report in one or two paragraphs. Include as many adjective, noun and verb + preposition combinations as you naturally can. Here are some ideas for stories from elsewhere in the book, but use your own ideas if you want to: *Hamlet* (Unit 20, page 86), *King Lear* (Unit 29, page 122), *Cinderella* (Activity note 7, page 138).

D Accuracy practice

1 Put in the correct prepositions to complete the sentences.

- 1 I've been waiting _____ this bus for half an hour now.
- 2 Three years after she killed her husband, Mrs Sedgely confessed _____ the murder.
- 3 Don't worry _____ the exams, just do the best you can.
- 4 We were at the wrong bus stop and so we missed the last bus. We can laugh _____ it now, but it wasn't so funny at the time.
- 5 I was just talking _____ Sarah when she walked in!
- 6 Helen's dress is two sizes too big. She borrowed it _____ her sister.
- 7 My cat has run away before but never so far. I really want to thank you _____ bringing him back.
- 8 Mrs Ridgeway, I really must apologize _____ my brother. I thought he was very rude to you last night.

2 Put in the correct prepositions after the adjectives to complete the sentences.

- 1 He was very upset _____ what had happened.
- 2 I have always been suspicious _____ people who don't tell you anything about themselves.
- 3 I'm bored _____ watching television every evening.
- 4 We were all amazed _____ how much she knew about Britain.
- 5 You did very well. I'm proud _____ you.

3 Put in the correct prepositions after the nouns to complete the sentences.

- 1 One advantage _____ this motorbike is that it is very reliable.
- 2 Addiction _____ drugs is one of the worst things that can happen to anyone.
- 3 What's the connection _____ this book and your holiday in Switzerland?
- 4 Harry saw the police talking to Jennife. She was a witness _____ a bad road accident.
- 5 It really wasn't Sean's fault. I've got a lot of sympathy _____ him.

4 Prepositions after verbs, adjectives and nouns in context. Two colleagues are discussing someone they work with. Put in the missing prepositions.

MS LONG Is Mr Smedley responsible ¹_____ all customer complaints? It's just that there's been a big increase ²_____ complaints lately and some of them aren't dealt ³_____ for months.

MR McLAREN I know. I don't like to be critical ⁴_____ a colleague, but that's the disadvantage ⁵_____ having someone who is not good ⁶_____ administration doing a job like this. And he's been doing it for two years now. I mean, he should be used ⁷_____ answering letters and sending people's money back. But look, there's a cheque ⁸_____ fifty pounds here. It's been on his desk for five days, and where . . . Ah! Hello, Mr Smedley. I didn't see you standing there. I was, er, just going.