

10 Prepositions

Prepositions are single words such as *at*, *from*, *in*, *of* and *on* or phrases such as *in front of*, *next to* and *out of*. We can use prepositions with noun phrases when we describe people (a group **of** Italian students) and things (the train **from** London) or when we provide additional information about an action or situation such as the time or place.

(Their train arrives **at** 4.30 **in** the afternoon. I told them that, if I'm not **on** the platform, they should just walk **out of** the station and wait **in front of** the news-stand **next to** the main entrance and I'll meet them there.)

1 Read through this report on working students and find another four phrases with prepositions describing time.

Contrary to popular belief, students do work

According to one National Union of Students survey, four out of ten students attending universities in the UK had a job during term-time. With more tuition fees and other additional costs, it seems reasonable to assume that this figure is increasing. The students we talked to confirmed that this is the case.

For many of the students we interviewed, the idea of a part-time job on top of their full-time studies is no longer an option, but a necessity. At the same time, some of them said universities offer little help regarding employment or simply advise students against having a job. They expect students to be working on their degrees and nothing else. One medical student reported: 'When I told my director of studies that I had a job in the Christmas break, he frowned. He clearly didn't think it was a good idea.'

Most students are employed in part-time or temporary jobs and, as a result of this, have no job security and don't qualify for sick leave or holiday pay. Many students are hired in place of regular workers, but are generally paid less than them. Some students don't actually work for pay, but do jobs in exchange for lower rent and/or meals. These are usually caretaker jobs.

With the exception of those able to find work inside their universities and colleges, the majority of students have jobs at night or during the weekend. One student reported that, apart from working, her weekends were spent sleeping: 'I work as a security guard until 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, so I end up sleeping all day Saturday and Sunday.' Another student said she works 22 hours a week in addition to her 20 weekly hours of lectures: 'I wouldn't say it has had any effect academically, but it means that I can't go out much.'

According to the NUS employment study, more than 10 per cent of students had missed lectures or failed to submit work because of job commitments. For those with term-time jobs, 30 per cent had missed lectures, while 20 per cent had not handed in assignments. It seems almost inevitable that, due to financial pressures, the university experience will change. Increased costs in education together with pressures to succeed in a competitive world are defining the circumstances in which today's students struggle to complete their degrees. Student life really does involve a lot more work these days.

2 Complete this summary with appropriate prepositions from the report.

Although universities often advise them (1) having a job, at least four (2) ten students now work (3) term-time. Some students do jobs (4) lower rent, but most of them work (5) part-time jobs, (6) less pay (7) regular workers and usually (8) night or (9) the weekend. Students (10) term-time jobs are a lot more likely to miss lectures and assignments, (11) a National Union (12) Students study.

Prepositions and prepositional phrases

Simple prepositions

Simple prepositions are single words such as *at*, *in*, *of*, *to* and *with*, which have a wide range of possible meanings (1). There are others, such as *behind*, *during* and *past*, which have a more limited range of meanings (2). There are also a few words derived from present participles, such as *following* and *including*, which can be used as simple prepositions (3).

1 *At Easter I went **with** a friend **of** mine **to** a special ceremony **in** Westminster Abbey.*

Others include: as, by, for, from, off, on

2 ***During** the ceremony, we had to sit **behind** a huge pillar. We couldn't see anything **past** it.*

Others include: above, across, against, before, between, inside, over, through, until, without

3 ***Following** the ceremony, we went to lunch. **Including** lunch, the whole trip took three hours.*

Others include: considering, excluding, facing, regarding

Complex prepositions

Complex prepositions are phrases which consist of two words such as *next to* and *instead of* (4), or more than two words such as *as well as* and *in front of* (5). They all end with a simple preposition.

4 *Come and sit **next to** me. • Could I have coffee **instead of** tea? (NOT ... ~~coffee instead tea?~~)*

Others include: according to, apart from, because of, due to, out of, together with

5 *There were two or three men **as well as** a group of girls **in front of** me waiting to buy tickets.*

Others include: as a result of, in addition to, in place of, on top of, with regard to

Prepositional phrases

Prepositional phrases consist of prepositions plus objects. The objects are noun phrases (6) and can include object pronouns (7) and gerunds (8).

6 *The boy cut the rope **with a penknife**. • I gave the keys **to the woman** who works **in your office**.*

7 ***Apart from us**, it was empty. • Let's keep this **between you and me**. (NOT ... ~~between you and I.~~)*

8 *Some people left **without paying**. • **Besides swimming**, I also like hockey and basketball.*

We normally put a preposition immediately before its object, but in questions (9) and relative clauses (10), we often put the preposition at the end. In formal uses, the preposition is sometimes put at the beginning of the question or before the relative pronoun (11).

9 *He cut it with something. → **What did he cut it with?***

10 *Jan is the woman. I gave the keys to her. → **Jan is the woman (that/who) I gave the keys to.***

11 ***With what did he cut it?** • **Jan is the woman to whom I gave the keys.** (NOT ~~to who~~)*

Some prepositions are only used at the beginning, not the end, of questions and relative clauses.

12 ***After which war was the Treaty of Versailles signed?** (NOT ~~Which war was it signed after?~~)*

Others include: above, because of, before, below, besides, during

3 Using information from the report on page 124, complete these sentences and decide how each preposition is being used.

a with an object pronoun c at the beginning of a relative clause

b with a gerund d at the end of a relative clause

1 The students confirmed that this is correct. (...)

2 Students need jobs, but some said universities don't help with employment. (...)

3 One student said that,, she spent her weekends sleeping. (...)

4 Higher costs are defining the circumstances students try to finish their degrees. (...)

Prepositions of time: *at, in, on, etc.*

We use *at* with an exact point in time.

- 1 *The morning session begins **at** 8.30 and ends **at** noon. • **At** that time I was still a student.*

We also use *at* before names of mealtimes or general words for holidays (2) and when we talk about a person's age as a point in time (3).

- 2 *I'll see you **at** breakfast. • What does your family do **at** Christmas? (NOT ~~at Christmas Day~~)*
3 *Both my parents left school **at** 16. • **At** your age, I was already married and had a baby.*

We use *in* with a period of time.

- 4 *We usually listen to music **in** the evening. • They did all the repairs **in** one day.*

Note that *in the night* ('during a specific night') is different from *at night* ('during any night').

We also use *in* before the names of months, seasons or years (5), and before phrases identifying centuries and historical periods (6).

- 5 *Summer time begins **in** March. • It's very dry here **in** summer. • Dickens died **in** 1870.*
6 *The house was built **in** the 19th century. • Jazz first became popular **in** the 1920s.*

We can also use *in* for a period of time before something happens or is completed.

- 7 *I'll be back **in** an hour. • They said they'd finish the work **in** two or three days.*

We use *on* with a specific day, or part of a specific day, and dates.

- 8 *I'll see you **on** Sunday. • The meeting is **on** Monday morning. • The exam is **on** May 30th.*

In informal uses, especially in American English, *on* is often left out: *I'll see you Sunday.*

We also use *on* with special days or occasions.

- 9 *I'll be there **on** your birthday. • What do you do **on** Christmas Day? (NOT ~~on Christmas~~)*

We don't usually use *at, in* or *on* before time expressions beginning with *each, every, last, next*.

- 10 *We had meetings every day last week. • I'm leaving next Friday. (NOT ~~on next Friday~~)*

We can use *from* and *to* for starting and end points in time (11). We can also use *past* ('later than') with a point in time (12).

- 11 *The class meets **from** 2.30 **to** 4.30. • We lived in Athens **from** 1998 **to** 2002.*
12 *What time is it? ~ It's **past** eight o'clock. Actually, it's already twenty **past** eight.*

4 Complete each sentence with one pair of words or phrases plus *at, in* or *on* where necessary.

Christmas Day / the past

four o'clock / Friday afternoon

the fourth of July / 1776

her birthday / next Saturday

✓midnight / New Year's Eve

night / winter

six / the morning

sixty-five / 2005

September / every year

Example: We all held hands and sang together *at midnight on New Year's Eve.*

- 1 I hated the early shift at the factory because I had to start work
- 2 We're going to have a big party for Rachel
- 3 They harvest the grapes
- 4 Because it was so cold in the bedroom, I often didn't sleep very well
- 5 It wasn't as common for people to get a holiday from work
- 6 I can't leave work early because I have a meeting
- 7 Although he didn't think of himself as old, Frank Jones had to retire
- 8 The American Declaration of Independence was signed

Prepositions of time: *during, for, since, etc.*

During, for, since

We can use *during* or *in* when something happens at some point(s) within a specific period of time (1). We usually use *during* (not *in*) when we're talking about the whole period of time (2).

- 1 We'll be on holiday **during/in** July. • The old road is sometimes closed **during/in** winter.
- 2 We need fewer workers **during** long weekends. • There were no classes **during** the whole of May.

We can use *during* (not *for*) to say when something happens and *for* (not *during*) to say how long something lasts.

- 3 **During** April, I'm hoping to go to New York **for** a few days. (NOT *during a few days*)

When we're talking about a period of time up to the present, we can use *for* to say how long it has been (4) and *since* to say when it started (5).

- 4 We've been waiting **for** hours. • I've been a student here **for** two years. (NOT *since two years*)
- 5 We've been waiting **since** eight o'clock. • I've been a student here **since** 2004.

We usually use a perfect tense, not the present simple, with *since*. (NOT *I'm here since 2004.*)

Before, by, until

We usually use *before* very generally for something happening earlier than a certain time (6). We use *by* more precisely when we mean 'at/on or before' a specific time (7). We use *until* for a period of time up to a specific point in time (8). We can use *not ... until* when we mean 'not earlier than' (9).

- 6 Jill: *Didn't Rob say he would be here **before** six?* (= at some time earlier than six)
- 7 Bev: *I think he said he hoped to be here **by** six.* (= at or before, but not later, than six)
- 8 Jill: *I guess we should wait for him **until** six-fifteen.* (= during the period up to six-fifteen)
- 9 Bev: *I bet he won't get here **until** six-thirty.* (= not earlier than six-thirty)

In informal uses, *till* is sometimes used instead of *until*: *He won't get here till six-thirty.*

We don't usually use two prepositions together, but the combinations *since before* ('from a point in time earlier than') and *until after* ('up to a point in time later than') are sometimes used.

- 10 *They've lived here **since before** the war. • Don't say 'Happy New Year' **until after** midnight.*

5 Using a dictionary if necessary, complete these definitions with the nouns and prepositions.

curfew deadline expiry date after at by during in (×2) until

(1) : the end of a period of time (2) which something can be used.

(3) : a point (4) time (5) which something must be done or completed.

(6) : a law prohibiting people from going outside (7) a particular time (8) night (9) a particular time (10) the morning.

6 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- 1 I've been waiting since an hour to have a minute with the boss till his next meeting.
- 2 My sister works as a teacher in Athens since after 2003.
- 3 Your application form must be received in this office until 9 a.m. in the first of March.
- 4 I have appointments in every morning this week, but I can see you on next Monday morning.

Prepositions of place: *at, in, on*

At, in and on for location

When something is *at* a place, it is close to it, but not touching it (1). We can also use *at* when we talk about a point on a scale or a journey (2):

- 1 We'll meet you **at** the bus stop. • I think I heard someone **at** the door.
- 2 Bake the pie **in** the oven **at** 170°. • I'm sure we stopped **at** York during our trip north.

When something is *in* a place, it is inside it (3). We can also use *in* when we talk about a place as a general area such as a region or a country (4).

- 3 The money was **in** a box **in** a drawer **in** the desk **in** my office. • What's **in** the envelope?
- 4 Lily is going to spend a week **in** Tuscany this summer. ~ Is that **in** France or Italy?

Note that we say: Who is the small boy **in** the picture? (NOT ~~**on** the picture~~)

When something is *on* a place, it is in contact with a surface (5). We can also use *on* when we talk about a place in relation to a line such as a road or a river (6).

- 5 I left the keys **on** the table. • She reached over and put her hand **on** his.
- 6 You'll pass Stratford **on** the way to Birmingham. It's just a small town **on** the river Avon.

Verbs and nouns with *at, in and on*

After verbs such as *shout* and *smile*, we use *at* before an object that is the target of the action.

- 7 Why is that man shouting **at** us? • She smiled **at** me. (NOT ~~She smiled me.~~)

Others include: bark, glance, laugh, look, scream, stare, swear, yell

After verbs such as *believe* and *include*, we use *in* before objects that describe ideas and things as if they were places.

- 8 I don't believe **in** life after death. • The tip is included **in** the bill. (NOT ~~It's included the bill.~~)

Others include: indulge, interfere, invest, join, meddle, result, specialize, wallow

After verbs such as *comment* and *concentrate*, we use *on* before an object.

- 9 We can't comment **on** the test results yet. • I can't concentrate **on** my work. (NOT ~~I can't concentrate my work.~~)

Others include: depend, focus, insist, lecture, plan, rely, remark, report

After nouns such as *ban* and *restriction*, we use *on* before another noun.

- 10 Isn't there a ban **on** pesticides? • They have restrictions **on** the amount of money you can send.

Others include: attack, constraint, effect, emphasis, imposition, limit, perspective, sanctions

7 Choose an ending (a–d) for each beginning (1–4) and add *at, in* or *on*.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 There are restrictions travel (...) | a rather than shouting each other. |
| 2 Jan kept staring the goldfish (...) | b of counting the money his wallet. |
| 3 They believe negotiating quietly (...) | c as it swam round its small glass bowl. |
| 4 He was concentrating the task (...) | d some parts of the country. |

8 Add *at, in* or *on* where necessary to these sentences.

Example: Craft shops ⁱⁿ many small villages rely ^{on} tour buses to bring them customers.

- 1 The meeting focused economic problems developing countries South-East Asia.
- 2 You can either stand the bar or sit a table most pubs Britain.
- 3 We were depending my brother to meet us the exit door after the concert.
- 4 The children were laughing something they had seen a cartoon.

Prepositions of place: *above*, *below*, *between*, etc.

Above and over

We use *above* and *over* to say that one thing is in a higher position than another (1).

1 *There's a full moon **above/over** the mountain. • He has a small scar **above/over** his left eye.*

We can use *above* (not *over*) when one thing is at a higher level or point on a scale than another (2).

We can use *over* (not *above*) when one thing covers another in some way (3). More figuratively, *above* can be used with the sense of 'better than' and *over* with the sense of 'more than' (4).

2 *It's always colder **above** the snowline. • Her name is **above** mine on the waiting list.*

3 *There are thick clouds **over** most of Scotland. • I had to wear a scarf **over** my head.*

4 *His work is **above** average. • Are you **over** 21? (NOT ~~Are you above 21?~~)*

Below and under

We use *below* and *under* to say that one thing is in a lower position than another (5).

5 *Their flat is **below/under** ours. • I keep the bleach **below/under** the sink in the kitchen.*

We use *below* (not *under*) when one thing is at a lower level or point on a scale than another (6).

We use *under* (not *below*) when one thing is covered by another in some way (7). More figuratively, *under* can be used with the sense of 'less than' (8).

6 *Most of New Orleans is **below** sea level. • I'm sure the temperature is **below** zero tonight.*

7 *The puppy likes to hide **under** the sofa. • Do you always wear a vest **under** your shirt?*

8 *If you're **under** 21, you can't get into the club. • The total cost of the trip was **under** £50.*

We can use *underneath* to emphasize 'covered by': *I keep my money underneath my mattress.*

Between and among

We can talk about a place *between* two or more separate people or things (9) or *among* more than two people or things together as a group (10).

9 *Find Luxembourg on the map. It's **between** Belgium, France and Germany.*

10 *Find Luxembourg on the map. It's **among** the countries of Western Europe.*

More figuratively, *between* (not *among*) can be used to talk about how things are connected (11) and *among* (not *between*) can be used with the sense of 'included in' (12).

11 *In the study, they investigated the relationship **between** education, diet and health.*

12 ***Among** the advantages of private schools are small classes and more individual attention.*

9 Using a dictionary if necessary, complete these sentences using an adjective or a noun plus one of the prepositions.

overalls overflow overlap above below over
overcoat overhead overpopulation among between under

- I'm wearing a woollen pullover and a jacket this, but I still feel cold.
- High birth rates combined with better health care for children are starting to create serious problems with some of the world's poorest nations.
- There does seem to be quite an the subject areas of maths and physics.
- The work is really dirty so you'd better wear your clean clothes.
- The number of young children starting school this year is well normal and we don't have enough room for them all, so we're having to use temporary buildings for the
- A number of people who live near or those massive power lines say that they have suffered health problems because of them.

Prepositions of movement and place: *from*, *across*, *along*, etc.

From, to, towards

We use *from* for the origin or starting point and *to* for the goal or end point of movement (1). More figuratively, *from* and *to* can be used for the starting and end points of changes (2).

- 1 We flew straight **from** London **to** San Francisco. • I can walk **from** my flat **to** work.
- 2 He translated the book **from** Russian **to** English. • It went **from** quite cool **to** very hot in an hour.

We can use *towards* ('in the direction of') to focus on the direction of movement (3). More figuratively, *towards* can be used to talk about the direction of development or change (4).

- 3 I suddenly saw a car coming **towards** me. • If you get lost, try to walk **towards** the south.
- 4 The trend is **towards** much larger farms. • This agreement is an important step **towards** peace.

Note that *toward* is also used, especially in American English: *It's a step toward peace.*

Into and onto

We can use *into* when we focus on movement to a place inside something (5) and *onto* (or *on to*) for movement to a surface of some kind (6).

- 5 We took a bus **into** the city centre. • The waiter poured some wine **into** each glass.
- 6 Let's move the small books **onto** the top shelf. • Paint was dripping from his brush **onto** the floor.

Across, over, through

We can use *across*, *over* and *through* for movement from one side of something to the other.

- 7 The early explorers had to get **across/over/through** the Rocky Mountains to reach the coast.

We usually use *across* for movement to the other side of a surface or area (8), *over* for movement to the other side of something that is viewed as high or as a line (9) and *through* for movement that enters and leaves something (10).

- 8 We spent a month travelling **across** America. • She pushed a note **across** the table to him.
- 9 The gate was locked so I climbed **over** the wall. • It was a good shot, but it went **over** the bar.
- 10 You have to go **through** the kitchen to get to the bathroom. • The Thames flows **through** London.

We can use *across* and *over* for place ('on the other side of'): *There's a cafe **across/over** the street.*

Along and past

We can use *along* for movement in one direction or to describe the position of something which is somewhere in that direction (11). We can use *past* for movement beyond a specific point or to describe the position of something beyond a specific point (12).

- 11 I like walking **along** country lanes. • There's a cafe **along** the street.
- 12 We drove **past** Stratford, but didn't stop there. • There's a cafe just **past** the church.

Off and out of

We can use *off* for movement away from a surface or to describe the position of something in relation to a surface (13). We use *out of* for movement from the inside of something or to describe the position of something which is no longer inside (14).

- 13 Could you take that box **off** the table? • The platform was about two feet **off** the ground.
- 14 I lifted the kitten **out of** the box. As soon as it was **out of** the box, it started crying.

Note that we don't use *out* (without *of*) as a preposition. (NOT ~~*It was out the box.*~~)

More figuratively, *off* can be used with the sense of 'not connected to' (15) and *out of* with the sense of 'no longer having' (16).

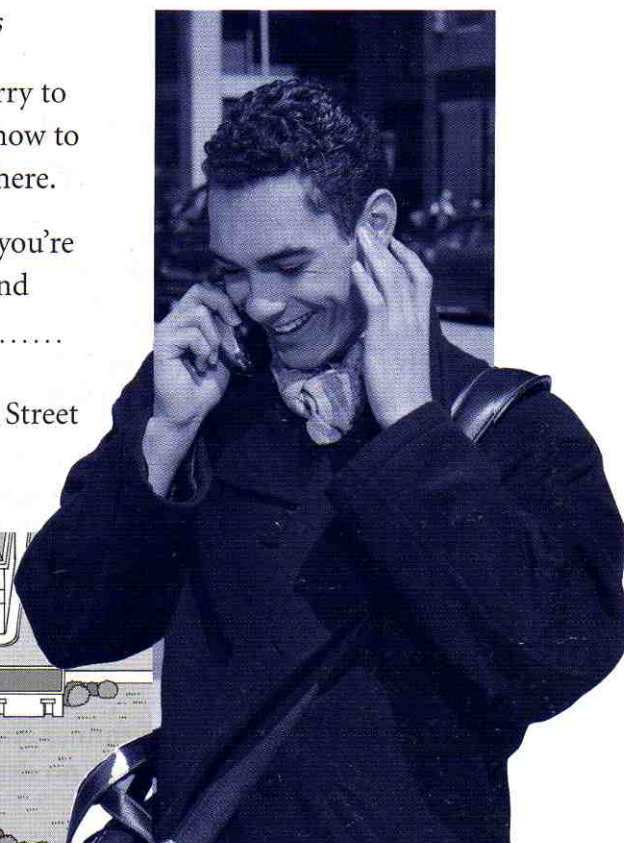
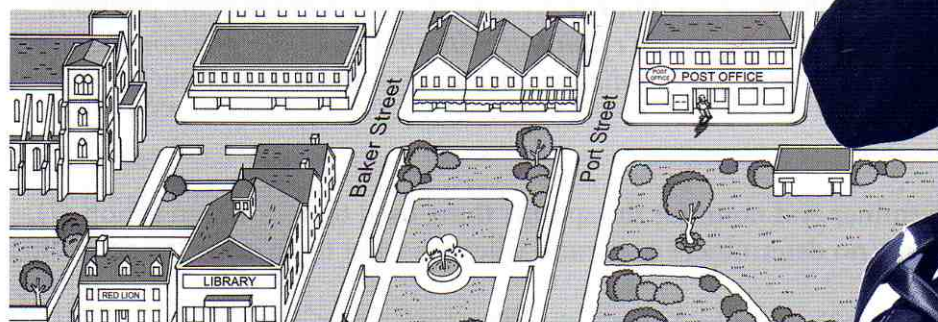
- 15 This part of your essay is completely **off** the main topic. • Skye is an island **off** the west coast.
- 16 We're **out of** milk, so I have to go to the shop. • A lot of people are **out of** work now.

10 Complete these directions with the following prepositions:

across along from out of past to (×2) towards

Tony (talking on the phone): Hi, Angie, it's me again. I'm sorry to bother you, but I'm in the post office and I can't remember how to get (1) the Red Lion (2) here.

Angie: That's okay. The Red Lion is on King Street, so when you're (3) the post office, you should turn right and walk (4) the cathedral. Go (5) Port Street and turn left when you reach Baker Street. Walk (6) Baker Street (7) King Street and turn right. The Red Lion will be on your right just (8) the library.



11 Using a dictionary if necessary, add one pair of prepositions to each sentence.

along / towards out of / from through / to

- 1 When you go via a particular place, you go that place on your way another place.
- 2 When you're going up or down a road, you're going it one end of it.
- 3 When you're asked to wait outside a room, you have to be the room, but you mustn't move too far it.

12 Add these prepositions to the following paragraphs from the beginning of a novel.

along from into on over through towards (×2)

She stands up in the garden where she has been working and looks into the distance. She has sensed a shift in the weather. There is another gust of wind, a buckle of noise in the air, and the tall cypresses sway. She turns and moves uphill (1) the house, climbing (2) a low wall, feeling the first drops of rain (3) her bare arms. She crosses the loggia and quickly enters the house.

In the kitchen she doesn't pause but goes (4) it and climbs the stairs which are in darkness and then continues (5) the long hall, at the end of which is a wedge of light (6) an open door.

She turns (7) the room which is another garden – this one made up of trees and bowers painted over its walls and ceiling. The man lies on the bed, his body exposed to the breeze, and he turns his head slowly (8) her as she enters.

Prepositions used for connections: *of*, *with*, *by*

Of and *with*

We use *of* and *with* when we talk about people and things being connected. We can put *of* between two noun phrases to show that the first belongs to or is part of the second (1). We can put *with* between two noun phrases when the second is a particular feature of the first (2).

- 1 *The roof of their house is bright red.* • *The sleeves of this shirt are too long.*
- 2 *Theirs is the house with the bright red roof.* • *I'm looking for a white shirt with short sleeves.*

We can use *of* to say how people are related (3) and *with* to say that people or things are together (4).

- 3 *Is Briony the daughter of Alice Hawthorn?* ~ *Yes, she's a good friend of mine.*
- 4 *I think Lee went shopping with her friends.* • *Would you like some wine with your meal?*

We use *of* after some adjectives (5) and *with* after others (6).

- 5 *Millie is afraid of dogs.* • *The report was full of mistakes.* (NOT ~~*It was full with mistakes.*~~) • *Are you aware of the risks involved?* • *I was fond of my old car, but it had too many problems.*
- 6 *We were faced with a difficult choice.* • *I wasn't familiar with that computer programme.* • *There are side effects associated with most medicines.* • *He wasn't satisfied with my work.*

With and *by*

We can use *with* plus a determiner and noun for the specific thing used to perform an action (7). We usually use *by* plus a noun (no determiner) or gerund when we want to describe the action in a more general way (8).

- 7 *I paid with my credit card.* • *The thief broke the lock with a knife.* (NOT ~~*by a knife*~~)
- 8 *I paid by credit card.* • *He opened the door by breaking the lock.* (NOT ~~*by break the lock*~~)

Other *by*-phrases used with a general meaning include: *by air*, *by bus*, *by email*, *by phone*

13 Complete each sentence with one pair of words or phrases (not necessarily in this order) plus *by*, *of* or *with* where necessary.

a cheque / the yellow lampshade *the door / a screwdriver* *the match / scoring*
American history / reading *her / taxi* *ours / some friends*
 ✓ *any problems / the way*

Example: We weren't aware of *any problems* until we started getting complaints from people who clearly weren't satisfied *with the way* their new computers were working.

- 1 He tried to remove the old broken handle
- 2 I'm becoming more familiar about the Civil War.
- 3 We went out to dinner
- 4 Robertson celebrated his return to the Scottish team the best goal against England yesterday.
- 5 They don't allow dogs on the buses so Betty always goes whenever she wants to take her dog
- 6 I wanted to buy that lamp but I didn't have enough cash and they wouldn't let me pay for it

Prepositions used for exceptions: *except (for)*, *besides*, *without*, etc.

Except (*for*), *besides*, *apart from*

We can use *except* or *except for* ('not including') with someone or something not included in a general statement, usually after a quantifier such as *every* (1). We usually use *except for* (not *except*) with information added to a specific statement that makes it not completely true (2).

- 1 *It's open every day **except (for)** Sunday.* • *Everyone liked the film **except me**.* (NOT ~~*except I*~~)
- 2 *She says she's stopped smoking **except for** an occasional cigarette at a party.*

We can use *except* (not *except for*) before preposition phrases (3) and clauses (4).

- 3 *I work here all day **except** on Friday.* • *It will be sunny everywhere **except** in the north.*
- 4 *I've never heard their baby cry **except** when it gets tired.*

In negative sentences, we can use *besides* with the same meaning as *except (for)* (5). In other sentences, *besides* usually means 'in addition to' (6).

- 5 *I didn't know anyone in London **besides/except (for)** my uncle Henry.*
- 6 ***Besides** football, what other sports do you like?* • *I've talked to a lot of people **besides** Henry.*

We can use *apart from* instead of both *except (for)* ('not including') and *besides* ('in addition to').

- 7 *It's open every day **apart from** Sunday.* • ***Apart from** football, what other sports do you like?*
- Note that *aside from* is used like *apart from*, especially in American English.

Without and minus

We use *except (for)* with something not included in a general statement. We use *without* for something not included in the wider senses of 'not having' (8) or 'not doing' something (9).

We can use *minus* when we want to emphasize that something has been removed (10).

- 8 *I prefer tea **without** milk, don't you?* • *Romeo chose death rather than life **without** Juliet.*
- 9 *Bill changed his travel plans **without** any explanation. Then he left **without** saying goodbye.*
- 10 *They eventually published the report, **without/minus** several important sections.*

14 Using a dictionary if necessary, complete each sentence with a noun and a preposition.

<i>bread</i>	<i>fruit</i>	<i>meal</i>	<i>pizza</i>		<i>besides</i>	<i>except for</i>	<i>with</i>
<i>fish</i>	<i>ice cream</i>	<i>omelettes</i>	<i>rice</i>		<i>except (×2)</i>	<i>minus</i>	<i>without (×2)</i>

- 1 We don't usually eat much when we have Indian food.
- 2 My grandfather liked to say that you can't make breaking eggs.
- 3 I first learned how to cook salmon and now I cook a lot of other that.
- 4 They usually drink wine with their evening during Lent.
- 5 My children don't eat a lot of bananas at breakfast sometimes.
- 6 Would you like some your strawberries?
- 7 We won't be able to make flour.
- 8 It was obvious that someone had already decided it was time to start eating because on the table was our one very large slice.

Phrasal verbs

Words such as *in* or *on* which are used as prepositions before noun phrases (1) can also be used as particles after verbs (2). We can also use other words such as *away*, *back* or *out* as particles (3). These verb + particle combinations (*sleep in*, *go out*) are called two-word verbs or phrasal verbs.

1 I usually drink coffee **in the morning**. • He said he left the keys **on the table**.

2 I **slept in** this morning and missed my bus. • He **put on** his boots and overcoat.

3 I tried to catch the dog, but it **ran away**. • When will she **come back**? • Did you **go out** last night?

Other phrasal verbs include: fall over, get through, go ahead, sit down, stand up, take off

Some phrasal verbs are used without an object (4) and others are used with an object. When the object is a noun phrase, we can usually put it before (5) or after the particle (6). When the object is a pronoun, we put it before the particle (7).

4 It's time to **get up**. • I wish these flies would **go away**. • **Watch out!** (NOT ~~Watch out that!~~)

5 Don't **turn on** the light. You'll **wake up** the baby. • He **took off** his shoes.

6 Don't **turn** the light **on**. You'll **wake** the baby **up**. • He **took** his shoes **off**.

7 Don't **turn** it **on**. You'll **wake** him **up**. • He **took** them **off**. (NOT ~~He took off them.~~)

After a phrasal verb we can also use a gerund (8) or a clause (9). We don't usually put clauses or very long phrases between the verb and the particle.

8 Have you **given up** smoking? • They told us to **carry on** working. (NOT ... ~~to carry on work.~~)

9 Andy **pointed out** that we didn't have enough time. • You should **read over** what you've written.

(NOT ~~You should read what you've written over.~~)

We can use phrasal verbs with prepositions. These combinations of verb + particle + preposition are sometimes called three-word verbs. We put pronouns after the prepositions.

10 This book is valuable and you should **hold on to** it. (NOT ~~hold on it hold it on to~~) • Go ahead and

I'll **catch up with** you later. (NOT ~~I'll catch up you I'll catch you up~~)

Others include: face up to, get round to, go along with, look forward to, watch out for

We often use phrasal verbs such as *put off* or *leave out* in informal situations (11) rather than other verbs with similar meanings such as *postpone* or *omit* which may sound more formal (12).

11 Let's **put** the meeting **off** till next week. • Don't **leave out** the author's name.

12 We should **postpone** the meeting until next week. • You must not **omit** the author's name.

15 Using a dictionary if necessary, rewrite these sentences in a more informal style, using appropriate forms of these phrasal verbs.

cut back on *fill in* *give up* *go in* *send back*
do away with *find out* *go along with* *go up* *take off*

1 You should complete this form and return it with your payment.

You have to

2 My father has abandoned his attempt to get the university to abolish tuition fees.

My dad

3 It was necessary to reduce our spending after we discovered that our rent was increasing.

We had to

4 Please observe local customs at the temple and remove your shoes before entering.

Please

16 Complete this text with appropriate phrasal verbs using these verbs and particles.

bend *breathe* (×2) *go* *lift* *push* *raise* *stand*
away *back* *down* *in* *out* *up* (×3)

When you have to spend a lot of time sitting at a desk, it is important to take short breaks and stretch your neck and back. You can use this exercise to help you stretch.

(1) your chair to the side and stand up, making sure there is some space in front of you. (2) straight, with your arms hanging loosely by your side.

Breathe in deeply as you (3) your arms over your head. Pause a moment.

Then (4) slowly as you swing your arms forward, letting them fall as you (5) your whole body until your hands are near your feet. Pause a moment.

Then, (6) as you (7) your body very slowly, beginning with your hips, then your upper body, followed by your head and arms.

Repeat the exercise at least once before you (8) to your desk again.



17 Choose A or B or both as appropriate sentences to use each time in creating this dialogue.

Ani: What's the meaning of 'reimburse'?

1 Raz: I don't know. (A) Let's look up it in the dictionary. (B) Let's look it up in the dictionary.

2 Ani: (A) Hand over the dictionary and I'll do it. (B) Hand it over the dictionary and I'll do it.

3 Raz: (A) I left behind it at home this morning. (B) I left it behind at home this morning.

4 (A) I think I put down beside my computer. (B) I think I put it down beside my computer.

Okay, so we can't use a dictionary. What's the context?

Ani: It says, 'They reimbursed his tuition fees.'

5 Raz: (A) Maybe it means they worked out what his tuition was.

(B) Maybe it means they worked what his tuition was out.

6 Ani: (A) But then it says he paid off some debts. (B) But then it says he paid off some.

7 Raz: (A) Maybe it means to pay back money to someone.

(B) Maybe it means to pay money back to someone.

8 Ani: (A) So, they gave back him the money for his tuition.

(B) So, they gave him back the money for his tuition.

Raz: Sounds good to me.

Tests

Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

- I know I don't look like everyone else, but I don't like it when people stare _____ me.
a at b on c to d – (no preposition)
- Please don't call me until _____ eight o'clock on Saturday morning.
a after b at c by d to
- I _____ waiting here for you since 8.30.
a am b was c have been d will be
- The United Nations is drawing up an economic plan aimed at _____ East Timor with a stronger economy based on coffee.
a provide b provides c to provide d providing
- If you borrow something from someone, make sure you give _____ .
a them back to it b back it to them c it back to them d it to them back

Identify the one underlined expression (A, B, C or D) that must be changed in order to correct the sentence.

- According to_A a recent report, more students are choosing to work in_B part-time jobs instead_C using their weekends to study during_D term-time.
- For_A a whole week Loretta came to_B class on_C every day with_D her hair a different colour.
- Between_A 1850 and 1900, coal production off_B the US rose from_C 14 million tons to_D 100 million.
- The ball went between_A the legs of another player, past_B me towards_C the goal, and rolled through_D the goal line.
- The children were laughing at_A a cartoon in_B which a cat on_C a wobbly ladder kept trying to get a small bird out_D its cage.

Choose one preposition from each pair for each space in the text.

at away during from off to
in up for of out of towards

Does the new 'global economy' simply mean that well-paid jobs will be taken

- (1) _____ (2) _____ people in rich countries and changed
(3) _____ low-paid jobs for people (4) _____ poorer countries? Is this
a bad thing? Perhaps. It may actually mean that some poor people who have been
(5) _____ work (6) _____ a long time can start to have a better life and
other people will have to work a bit harder to maintain their comfortable lifestyle.

D Complete each sentence in such a way that it is as similar as possible in meaning to the sentence above it.

- 1 This building will be closed for renovation from the beginning to the end of August.
During _____
- 2 What else did you do in addition to shopping when you were in Rome?
Besides _____
- 3 Haven't you eaten anything else today besides the apple I gave you earlier?
Apart _____
- 4 We won't be able to do much unless we get more financial support.
Without _____

E Complete this text using these prepositions.

across along at by into of past towards under with

Whenever I see a newspaper lying on the ground beside a door, I think of Fred. A few years ago, Fred had to travel to a meeting and his flight was delayed for several hours because of bad weather. (1) _____ the time he got to his hotel it was (2) _____ midnight. Once in his room, he felt really tired so he just undressed and got into bed. (3) _____ some point during the night, he had to get up and go to the bathroom. He wasn't really awake and it was very dark, but he could see a light (4) _____ the bathroom door, so he walked (5) _____ the light. He opened the bathroom door and went in. The bright light blinded him for a moment. As the door closed behind him, he vaguely wondered why there was a doormat on the bathroom floor. Facing him was another door (6) _____ a number on it. It was number 325. That was strange. Then he realized he wasn't in the bathroom. He was in the corridor. He turned to go back (7) _____ his room, but the door was locked. And he was naked. He heard voices coming from the far end of the corridor. What was he going to do? Then he noticed a newspaper on the floor beside the door (8) _____ number 325. He quickly grabbed the newspaper and held it in front of him as a man and a woman in dark uniforms came (9) _____ the corridor towards him. The man said, 'Good morning, sir. Having a bit of trouble?' They were security guards. Fred explained his embarrassing situation and they unlocked the door for him. He thanked them as if they had just saved his life. After they left, he opened his door, made sure it wouldn't close again, stepped (10) _____ the corridor and put the newspaper back on the floor outside number 325. Someone else might need that newspaper.