

6 Prepositions

Prepositional phrases and *that*-clauses

Exercise 79

Replace the *that*-clause in each of the following sentences by a *prepositional phrase* without changing the original meaning:

- 1 I was afraid that I might fall down the ladder.
- 2 We were amused that you met the Joneses there.
- 3 I am not aware that I gave you permission to leave.
- 4 We are quite confident that we shall win.
- 5 The committee has decided that the matter be dropped.
- 6 The brothers were determined they would have their revenge.
- 7 We are grateful (to you) that you have taken an interest in us.
- 8 No one is sorry that Lawler has resigned.
- 9 Are you sure that Simon has disappeared?
- 10 I am not surprised that he has married again.
- 11 I assure you that I am willing to stand down.
- 12 The young man convinced everyone that he was innocent.
- 13 Did anyone inform you that the plans had been changed?
- 14 I must remind you that you have a responsibility towards your friends.
- 15 No one told me that there were these problems.

wh-clauses and *that*-clauses after a preposition

Exercise 80

Combine each of the following pairs of sentences so as to form one sentence containing either a *wh*-clause or *the fact* + a *that*-clause, and retaining the words underlined:

- 1 What will the Government decide? Our plans depend on that.
- 2 We have never been consulted. Our protest is due to that.
- 3 His salary has been increased? I was not aware of it.
- 4 We are spending more than our income. I am fully conscious of it.
- 5 Why do you want to borrow all that money? I am interested.
- 6 You want to go to Peru. I am interested.
- 7 Who is in the audience? Some speakers are very sensitive to that.

- 8 What started the fire? I am not sure about it.
- 9 I have no doubt about it. I know where he has gone.
- 10 The notices were not sent out till yesterday. I apologize.
- 11 All the men were heavy smokers. The disease was clearly related to that.
- 12 Where can you find the money? Don't worry about that.

Exercise 81

Transform each of the pairs of sentences in Exercise 80 so as to form one sentence beginning with a *wh*-clause on the model:

What I am not certain about is who gave him the money.

Postposed prepositions

Exercise 82

Transform each of the sentences below into (a) a *wh*-question, and (b) a sentence with a relative clause, on the following model:

I put the parcel on the top shelf.

- a Which shelf did you put the parcel on?
- b The shelf I put the parcel on was the top one.

- 1 I gave your letter to the very handsome-looking man.
- 2 I haven't dealt with the seventh question yet.
- 3 I am more accustomed to the American style of spelling.
- 4 I am most anxious about the front tooth.
- 5 I am familiar with the shorter dictionary.
- 6 I am best qualified for the intermediate course.
- 7 I operated on the wrong patient.
- 8 I was concerned with later editions of this book.
- 9 I am not clear about the last word in that sentence.
- 10 I can least rely on the weakest link in the chain.

Exercise 83

Rewrite the following sentences, putting the verb phrase underlined in the passive:

- 1 Have you accounted for all the breakages?
- 2 You have not yet acted on my instructions.
- 3 We have argued about this question for too long.
- 4 You should have dealt with the lady's complaint at once.
- 5 They have not yet entered into serious negotiations.
- 6 No one has ever looked after this house properly.
- 7 I don't like people staring at me like that.
- 8 If you stand there, soldiers are likely to shoot at you.
- 9 People are talking about her all over the town.
- 10 But he is not the candidate who we voted for.

Prepositional adverbs**Exercise 84**

In the sentences below, replace each prepositional phrase by a prepositional adverb if one is available. If one is not available, put a dash:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Drive past the house. | 11 Climb over the wall. |
| 2 Walk to the door. | 12 We come from Italy. |
| 3 Step into the office. | 13 Wait outside my room. |
| 4 Stand at the back. | 14 Stroll by her window. |
| 5 Go towards Girton. | 15 He rushed through the town. |
| 6 Stay off the road. | 16 I am going with Jack. |
| 7 Get inside the car. | 17 You were in front of me. |
| 8 Jump onto the bus. | 18 My room is opposite yours. |
| 9 We're leaving for Rome. | 19 Don't get out of bed. |
| 10 Swim across the river. | 20 We have come to the end. |

Functions of the prepositional phrase**Exercise 85**

Identify each prepositional phrase in the sentences below, and indicate by *a, b, c* or *d* whether it is

- an adverbial (whether adjunct, disjunct or conjunct)
- a postmodifier in a noun phrase
- the complementation of a verb
- the complementation of an adjective.

- I met John Wilkins when I was at the bank.
- Then I had lunch with him at a restaurant.
- In the afternoon, we went to Boston together.
- We went to see whether John Taylor was at home.
- I spent five years at a medical school.
- The students at the hospital were fond of practical jokes.
- People in pain do not try to hide anything from their doctor.
- I regret to say that I fainted at my first operation.
- As a result, I decided to give up medicine.
- The professor was, in fact, afraid of us.
- In all fairness, I should add that he suffered from violent pains in the head.
- In any case, as he had taken his first degree in 1927, he must have been over the retirement age.

Prepositions indicating position and direction**Exercise 86**

Say which of the following prepositions.

to	at	(away) from
on(to)	on	off
in(to)	in	out of

could acceptably replace each dash in the sentences below:

- Come _a _____ my room and sit down _b _____ my desk.
- Stand _a _____ the door and show the visitors _b _____ their seats.
- Take this parcel _a _____ my house. I live _b _____ 32, Sidgwick Avenue.
- Stick this notice _a _____ the notice-board. Don't let anyone take it _b _____ the notice-board, will you?
- I don't want anyone else _a _____ the platform, so please keep right _b _____ it.
- Take that dangerous weapon _a _____ him and keep it _b _____ him.
- How far is it _a _____ here _b _____ the station?
- Mary stood _a _____ the window watching as the dog chased the intruder _b _____ the garden.
- Many people work _a _____ the town and go _b _____ the country for the week-end.
- Most government offices are situated _a _____ the capital, but some have moved _b _____ the provinces.
- Do you really live _a _____ New Delhi? I stopped _b _____ New Delhi once on the flight _c _____ Tokyo _d _____ London.
- My younger brother is still _a _____ school. He will be going _b _____ university next year.

Exercise 87

Replace each dash by one of the following prepositions:

above after before behind below beneath in front of on top of over under underneath

- If X is above Y, then Y is _____ X.
- When A is behind B, then B is _____ A.
- S is under T: so T must be _____ S.
- U is below V. Therefore V is _____ U.
- A bridge goes _____ a river, and the river _____ the bridge.
- Gamma* comes before *delta*, so *delta* must come _____ *gamma*.
- We can't move forwards or backwards. There is a bus _____ us and a truck right in our way.
- The wall collapsed _____ a crowd of people and they were buried _____ the rubble.
- A swimmer without breathing apparatus must keep his head _____ the surface of the water; but a diver with an aqualung can stay _____ the surface for a long time.
- We live _____ the hill _____ the town and have a magnificent view _____ the surrounding countryside.

Exercise 88

Replace each dash by one of the following:
across along past through

- 1 The dog chased the kitten a _____ the lawn and b _____ the shrubbery.
- 2 As we were not allowed to go a _____ the frontier at X, we drove b _____ it as far as Y and crossed it there.
- 3 The bandit ran a _____ the street, fired, and a shot went right b _____ the wall behind me.
- 4 On the Trans-Siberian railway, you travel a _____ the shores of Lake Baikal, b _____ dark forests, c _____ wide plains, d _____ herds of grazing cattle.
- 5 It takes only a few hours to fly a _____ the Atlantic. It seems to take almost as long sometimes to drive b _____ the dense traffic of a modern urban conglomeration.

Exercise 89

State, by writing *a, b, c, d* etc., whether the preposition underlined indicates

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>a position</i> | <i>e resultative state</i> |
| <i>b destination</i> | <i>f pervasive (static) state</i> |
| <i>c passage</i> | <i>g pervasive motion</i> |
| <i>d orientation</i> | |

- 1 The monkeys disappeared through the window.
- 2 I went into the bathroom to get a drink of water.
- 3 I looked in the mirror and thought I had a monkey's face.
- 4 A monkey was sitting on the edge of the bath.
- 5 It was squeezing toothpaste all over its chest.
- 6 I rushed out of the house, shouting for help.
- 7 Out of the house, I felt calmer.
- 8 I sent for the monkey-catcher, who lived across the river.
- 9 We ran behind the house and watched.
- 10 Two monkeys were chasing each other in the dining-room.
- 11 They were still dancing around the house.
- 12 I shouted, and one dived under the bed.
- 13 Paper lay scattered all over the floor.
- 14 At last they all trooped off down the road.
- 15 Down the road was an old temple.
- 16 My best friend lived down the road.
- 17 His is the white house just past the bridge.
- 18 If you can get past his dog, you'll be perfectly safe.
- 19 Come onto the verandah and sit down.
- 20 Thank goodness, we're over the worst of it now.

Position and direction metaphorically

Exercise 90

Replace each dash by one of the following prepositions used in a metaphorical sense:

above below beneath beyond from in into out of over past to under

- 1 If you run a _____ difficulties or find yourself b _____ any trouble at all, I'll help you out.
- 2 We're a _____ no danger now. I can assure you that we're safely b _____ danger at last.
- 3 I'm sorry, we have no typewriter ribbons a _____ stock. We've been b _____ stock for several days.
- 4 His attitude in writing this letter is a _____ contempt. It is b _____ my dignity to reply.
- 5 I'm afraid you're too old. You're a _____ age. I was b _____ the impression you were younger.
- 6 Don't panic. The situation is a _____ control. The captain knows exactly what to do b _____ the circumstances.
- 7 You usually find me a _____ a good humour, but, really, your behaviour today is b _____ a joke.
- 8 You must face facts. You are a _____ your prime, and the time has come when we should release you b _____ your heavy responsibilities.
- 9 John's work is very good. It is well a _____ the average. But Jack's is b _____ the standard I expect in this class.
- 10 The purpose of welfare services is to provide security a _____ the cradle b _____ the grave.
- 11 Owing to circumstances a _____ our control, we have run b _____ debt. The situation is, however, not c _____ hope, and I am confident that we can soon put our affairs d _____ order again.

Prepositions relating to time

Exercise 91

Replace each dash by one of the following prepositions relating to time:
at on in; for during after before; since until by up to

- 1 The museum is closed a _____ Mondays. Otherwise, it opens every day of the week b _____ 09.00 hours, and remains open to the public c _____ 17.00. All visitors must be out of the building d _____ 17.05.
- 2 a _____ the summer months, the reading-room will only be open b _____ the mornings, c _____ four hours, namely d _____ 8 a.m. e _____ 12.
- 3 A How long have these regulations been in force?
B a _____ about six months, b _____ last January.

- 4 Jackson was born a _____ New Year's Day, b _____ the morning of January 1st 1912.
- 5 You will wait here a _____ 20.00 hours. You cannot leave b _____ then, as the moon will not be out. c _____ 20.00, proceed quietly to point X. Wait there for 'C' Company. If 'C' Company has not joined you d _____ 21.30, make your own way to point Y. You will not stay at Y e _____ 21.30.
- 6 a _____ two hours, we waited at Z for further instructions. At last, a signal came, shortly b _____ dawn.

Exercise 92

Supply *on*, *in* or *zero (0)* in place of each of the dashes below. If *on* or *in* is optional, indicate by brackets, thus: (*on*)

- 1 A meeting was held a _____ last Thursday. An account of it appeared in the press b _____ Friday last.
- 2 We shall meet a _____ next Thursday, and then again b _____ March 20th.
- 3 A telegram came a _____ this morning to say that Roberts is due to arrive b _____ Monday next.
- 4 A a _____ the next time you come to London, let me know.
B I come to London b _____ every June.
- 5 A When shall I see you again?
B Perhaps a _____ Tuesday week, or b _____ the following day.

Exercise 93

If *for* is optional in the following sentences, put (*for*); otherwise *for*:

- 1 We waited for two hours in the pouring rain.
- 2 I shall be here for another six weeks.
- 3 This noise has gone on for too long.
- 4 I haven't been able to eat anything for two days.
- 5 For two days, I haven't eaten anything.
- 6 I have worked in this department for ten years and now I would like a change.
- 7 No other post will fall vacant for a year or two yet.
- 8 I think you had better lie down for an hour or two.
- 9 We have been waiting here for an hour and a half.
- 10 For two days, the storm raged; and we clung to the wreckage of a ship for two long days and nights.

Prepositions indicating cause and purpose

Exercise 94

Replace each subordinate clause underlined by a prepositional phrase, retaining the original meaning. Do not use the same preposition twice.

- 1 We were obliged to rest, because it was intensely hot.
- 2 We were obliged to wear thick, high boots, because we were afraid of poisonous snakes.
- 3 Because he knew this mountainous country, Jackson was appointed as our guide.
- 4 I think the chief let us go simply because he sympathized with us in our plight.
- 5 Many of the prisoners died on the march either because they were starving or because they had been severely wounded.
- 6 There are criminals who will commit murder because they want money.

Means; instrument; manner; support, opposition; etc.

Exercise 95

Replace each dash by one of the prepositions indicated.

As, like

- 1 Robert was _____ a brother to me.
- 2 In calling him my 'friend', I am using that word as I would have used it _____ a child.
- 3 He was wearing a sports shirt and sandals, _____ a tourist.
- 4 _____ a boy, he had been very fond of swimming.
- 5 Be your age. You're behaving _____ a boy.
- 6 I can offer you a temporary job _____ a clerk.
- 7 Many people believe they are not _____ other men.
- 8 _____ a friend, he was always ready to help me.

By, with, without

- 9 I was always happy to be _____ my friends, enjoying their company.
- 10 You are a good friend. What would I do _____ you?
- 11 I must stay here. You go ahead _____ me.
- 12 I woke _____ a start. Someone was moving downstairs.
- 13 Thousands of people are away from work _____ influenza.
- 14 Influenza viruses are studied _____ growing them in fertile hens' eggs.
- 15 You cannot make a good omelette _____ dried eggs.
- 16 Nor can you make an omelette _____ breaking eggs.
- 17 You break the egg _____ tapping it smartly on the edge of the frying-pan.
- 18 Lift the omelette out of the frying-pan a _____ a broad knife, or b _____ means of a spatula.

At, by, with

- 19 We were surprised _____ a loud knock at the door.
- 20 What a thing to say! I'm surprised _____ you!
- 21 See if you can keep the children amused _____ this toy.
- 22 Queen Victoria was not amused _____ naughty stories.
- 23 I'm amused _____ your reaction to that last example.

- 24 Rosemary is delighted _____ the flowers you sent her.
 25 We are all delighted _____ the news of your engagement.
 26 Everyone was shocked _____ hearing of your bereavement.

For, with, against

- 27 Every vote _a _____ me will be a vote _b _____ the party I oppose.
 28 We are on your side. We are all _____ you.
 29 A skilful politician succeeds in going along _____ public opinion.
 30 It is always difficult to stand up _____ the opinion of the majority.
 31 If you are _a _____ the proposal, write 'Yes'. If you are _b _____ it, write 'No'.

In, with

- 32 We have studied your proposal _a _____ great care, but cannot see _b _____ what way it differs from ours.
 33 All the people received the news of the treaty _a _____ relief, and returned to their homes _b _____ a glad heart. Those who had fought so valiantly were rewarded _c _____ a fashion appropriate for heroes.

Of, with, without

- 34 A man _a _____ a loaded gun but _b _____ skill in holding it properly can be a menace.
 35 Herbert was a man _a _____ few words; but he was a man _b _____ a sense of when to say the right thing.
 36 I would rather have a house _a _____ character than a luxury flat _b _____ any aesthetic appeal whatever.

Prepositional phrase as disjunct or as conjunct

Exercise 96

Replace the finite clause underlined by a prepositional phrase beginning with one of the following:

despite *or* in spite of for all notwithstanding with all

- 1 Although the city has so many attractions, Laurie still preferred his cottage in the country.
- 2 There was clear scientific evidence, but people still refused to believe that cigarette smoking was dangerous.
- 3 (Article 6 makes provision for compensating a tenant if any defect in the central heating installation results in damage to the tenant's property.) Although this provision is made in Article 6, the landlord will not be responsible for any damage caused by negligence on the part of the tenant.
- 4 He died a most unhappy man, although he had an immense fortune.
- 5 You've got a huge secretarial staff yet it still seems to take you a week to answer a simple letter.

Exception

Exercise 97

Indicate, by *a, b, c, etc.*, which of the following could **not** replace the dash in the sentences below:

a apart from b but c but for d except e excepting
 f except for g with the exception of

- 1 There will be rain everywhere _____ in the north-east.
- 2 _____ Harvey, every student failed the test.
- 3 _____ Harvey, we should never have found the way.
- 4 Every picture has been sold _____ these two.
- 5 Every picture _____ these two has been sold.
- 6 _____ these two, every picture has been sold.
- 7 We would have arrived two hours ago _____ the traffic jams.