

Practical English

Seanan

1. Verb Prepositions
2. Verb Prepositions
3. Noun Prepositions
4. Preposition Nouns
5. Adjective Prepositions
6. Adjective Prepositions
7. Prepositions of Time
8. Prepositions of Place

1. Verbs & Prepositions

Below, you will find a listing of the verb/preposition groupings, but it is not everything. Groupings that are divided by a star * may be separated by a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase; in some cases, the verb and preposition must be separated. Those that do not have a star must remain together.

Example: We will now **confer** an honorary doctorate **upon** her.

Example: I can't believe I have to **sift through** all these legal documents.

account for
allude to
aspire to
apologize for/ to
appeal to

apply for/ to
approve of
argue about/ for/ against/ with/ over
arrange for
ascend toward

assign*to
assist*with
atone for
attach*to
attempt to

attest to
attracted*to/ by
augment*with
awaken from
balk at

ban*from
bar*from
bark at
bask in
banish*from

banter with/ about
beg*for
blame*for/ on/
upon
bicker with
bid for

bilk out of bite into block*from blossom into blot*out	bore into brace*for brood about burden*with burrow into/ under	campaign for capitalize on care for/ about carry*out caution*about
cavort with coerce*into coincide with collaborate with collide with	comment about/ to commiserate about/ with commit*to communicate with commute*to	compare*with compel*to compensate*for compete for complain about
compromise about/ with conceive of concentrate on concur with condescend to	confer with/*upon confess*to confide*in/to conform*to confront*with	confused about conjure up connect*to consent to cooperate with
dabble in deal with deliberate about delve into descend to/ into	deviate from dictate to differ from distract*from distribute*to	diverge from ease*into eject*from elect to elevate*to
eliminate*from emanate from emigrate from/ to enable*to enlist*to	enroll*in entitle*to entrust*to envelop*in equip*with	eradicate*from erase*from erupt from escape from/ to escort*to
etch into evict*from evolve into excel at/in/on exclude*from	excuse*from exert*on exonerate*from expel*from experiment on/ with	expunge*from extend*to extract*from extricate*from extrude*from/ onto
familiarize*with fascinated with/ about fawn over foist*upon forage for	forbid*to force*to forget to/ about fret about frolic with/ in	frown upon fumble with fume over gape at gawk at
gape at gawk at gaze at/ upon gesture toward glance at	glare at glean from gloat about gnaw on/ upon goad*into	gossip about grapple with graze on/ upon gripe about grumble about
fight*for/ about/ over/ hack up haggle about/ over/ with hammer on hanker for	hasten to heap*upon hesitate to hollow out hover over	hunch over hunger for identify with imbue*with immerse*in

immigrate from/ to
 impale*upon
 impede*from
 impel*to
 impose upon

improve upon
 incorporate*with/ into
 induce*to
 indulge in
 infect*with

infest*with
 inflict*upon
 inform*about
 infringe upon
 inject*with

inoculate*with
 insert*into
 insist upon
 inspire*to
 insulate*with

intend to
 interest*in
 interfere with
 intrude into
 inundate with

invest*in
 invite*to
 involve*in/ with
 jeer at
 lapse into

lavish upon
 liken*to
 listen to
 lob*at
 lunge at

lure into
 luxuriate in
 marvel at
 masquerade as
 mate*with

meddle in/with
 meditate on
 meld*into
 merge into/ with
 mesh with

mete*out
 mingle with
 mold*into
 motion toward
 muster up

mutate into
 mutter about
 negotiate for/ with
 nestle into
 nod toward/at

nominate*for
 notify*about
 nourish*with
 object to
 obscure*with

obsess over
 obstruct*by/ with
 occur to
 opt to/ for
 pacify*with

pander to
 parcel out
 pare*down
 parley*into
 partake in

participate in/ with
 peck at
 peer at/ into
 pelt*with
 pepper*with

perch on
 percolate into
 pertain to
 predisposed to
 preface*with

prepare*for
 presume to
 pretend to
 prevent*from
 prey upon

prohibit*from
 project*onto
 protrude from
 purge*from
 qualify*for

quarrel with/ over/ about
 quibble over
 reciprocate with
 reconcile with
 recuperate from

reduce*to
 refer to
 refrain from
 refuse to
 regale*with

relapse into
 relate*to
 rely on
 remind*to
 reminisce about

remove*from
 require*to
 reside in
 resign from
 resolve to

resort to
 respond to
 restrain*from
 retaliate for
 retrieve*from

revel in
 revert to
 revolve around
 rifle through
 rile up

rob of
 root for
 ruminate about
 rummage through
 saddle*with

schedule*to
 scheme to
 scoff at
 scoop up
 secede from

settle over/ down
 shame*into
 share*with
 shear*off
 shred*into

side with
sidle up to
sift through
slink toward/ through/ away
from
slip*through/ away from

slither through/ toward/ away from/ up/
down
slouch down
snarl at
snatch*away from/ out of
sneak*toward/ away from

sneer at
snicker about
snipe at/ about
snuggle with
sort through

spar with
speak about /to
specialize in
speculate about
splurge on

spurt at/ out
spur*on
spy on
squabble over/ about
stare at

stave off
steal*from/ for
strive to/ for
struggle with/ to
subject*to

submit*to
subscribe to
succumb to
surrender*to
sympathize with

taint*with
tamper with
tangle with
teach*to
testify to/for

theorize about
thicken*with
threaten*with/ to
thrive in/ on
throng to

throttle*with
tinker with
toy with
trace to/ around
translate*for/into

treat*to
trifle with
trim*with
truss*up
tuck*in

unburden*to
unite with
upgrade*to
urge*to
usher in

vie for
volunteer for
vouch for
vow to
wallow in

will*to
wince at
withdraw from
worm*into
worry about

wrench*from
wrest*from
wrestle with/ from
yearn for
yell at/ about/ to

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2. Verb & Prepositions

Below please find another list of verbs and preposition combinations.

Verb	Preposition
account	for
accuse (someone)	of
adapt	to
add	to
adjust	to
agree	on (something)
agree	to (something)
agree	with (someone)
apologize	for (something)
apologize	to (someone)
apply	for
approve	of
argue	with (someone)
argue	about (something)
arrive	at
ask	for
become	of
believe	in
belong	to
blame (someone)	for (something)
blame (something)	on (something)
borrow	from
care	about
care	for
catch	up with (?)
come	from
comment	on
communicate	with
compare	with

complain	about
compliment (someone)	on
congratulate	on
concentrate	on
consent	to
consist	of
convince (someone)	of (something)
deal	with
decide	between
decide	on
depend	on
(dis)approve	of
dream	about, of
excuse (someone)	for
explain (something)	to
feel	like
forget	about
forgive (someone)	for
get	along with
get	back from
get rid	of
get	through with
get used	to
happen	to
have confidence	in
have influence	over
have an opportunity	for
have patience	with
have a reason	for
hear	about
hear	from
hear	of
insist	on
introduce	to
invite (someone)	to
keep	for, from
keep	on

laugh	about
laugh	at
learn	about
listen	for
listen	to
look	at
look	for
look forward	to
object	to
participate	in
pay	for
plan	on
prefer	to
prepare	for
prevent	from
provide	for
provide (someone)	with
recover	from
refer	to
relate	to
rely	on
remind (someone)	of
search	for
see	about
send	for
separate	from
show	up at
speak	about
spend (money)	on
stop	from
substitute	for
subtract	from
succeed	in
suspect (someone)	of
take advantage	of
take care	of
talk	about

talk	over
talk	to
thank (someone)	for
think	about
think	of
throw	away
vote	for
wait	for
warn	about
waste (money)	on
wish	for
work	for
worry	about

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3. Noun & Prepositions

FOR

Use 'for' preceded by the following nouns:

- a check for (amount of money)

Example: *She gave me a check for \$50.*

- a demand for something

Example: *Unfortunately, there wasn't enough demand for our product.*

- a need for something

Example: *There is a real need for discipline in this class.*

- a reason for something

Example: *I have a reason for doing that!*

IN

Use 'in' preceded by the following nouns:

- a rise in something

Example: *There has been a rise in prices recently.*

- an increase in something

Example: *We have seen many increases in production levels.*

- a fall in something

Example: *There has been a fall in prices recently.*

- a decrease in something

Example: *We have seen many decreases in production levels.*

OF

Use 'of' preceded by the following nouns:

- a cause of something

Example: *She is the cause of all his problems.*

- a photograph OR a picture of something or someone

Example: *He took a photograph of the mountains.*

TO

Use 'to' preceded by the following nouns:

- damage to something

Example: *I did a lot of damage to my car the other day.*

- an invitation to a celebration of some type

Example: *We were invited to their wedding.*

- reaction to something

Example: *Her reaction to his behavior was quite funny.*

- a solution to a problem

Example: *He provided the solution to our financial situation.*

- an attitude to something (or TOWARDS something)

Example: *Your attitude to your problems doesn't help them get resolved.*

WITH

Use 'with' preceded by the following nouns:

- a relationship with someone or something

Example: *My relationship with Mary is wonderful.*

- a connection with someone or something

Example: *His connections with the CIA are very limited.*

- a contact with someone or something

Example: *Have you had any contact with Sarah?*

BETWEEN

Use 'between' preceded by the following nouns:

- a connection between TWO things

Example: *There is no connection between the two crimes.*

- a relationship between TWO things

Example: *The relationship between the two friends was very strong.*

- a contact between TWO things

Example: *There is little contact between the two parents.*

- a difference between TWO things

Example: *There is no difference between those two colors.*

4. Prepositions & Nouns

BY

Use 'by' with the following nouns:

- to pay by check (credit card)

Example: *I paid the bill by check.*

- to do something by accident

Example: *I broke the vase by mistake.*

- to do something by mistake

Example: *I'm afraid I brought the wrong book by mistake.*

- to do something by chance

Example: *I saw Jack at the supermarket by chance.*

- a play, song, book, etc. by someone

Example: *The opera 'Otello' is by Giuseppe Verdi.*

FOR

Use 'for' with the following nouns:

- (to go / come) for a walk

Example: *Let's go for a walk.*

- (to go / come) for a swim

Example: *We went for a swim as soon as we arrived.*

- (to go / come) for a drink

Example: *Would you like to come over for a drink?*

- (to go / come) for a visit

Example: *I'd love to come for a visit sometime.*

- (to have something) for breakfast / lunch / dinner / supper (US English)

Example: *I had bacon and eggs for breakfast.*

IN

Use 'in' with the following nouns:

- to be OR to fall in love with someone

Example: *I fell in love with my wife at first sight.*

- in my opinion

Example: *In my opinion, we need to invest in some development.*

- a need for something

ON

Use 'on' with the following nouns:

- (to be) on fire

Example: *Help! The house is on fire!*

- (to be) on the telephone / phone

Example: *I think Tom is on the phone at the moment.*

- on television

Example: *There is a good film on television tonight.*

- on the radio

Example: *Mahler's fifth was on the radio last night.*

- (to be / go) on a diet

Example: *I really need to go on a diet.*

- (to be / go) on strike

Example: *The sanitary engineers have gone on strike again.*

- (to be / go) on holiday (UK English) / vacation (American English)

Example: *I really need to go on vacation soon.*

- (to be / go) business

Example: *He went away this weekend on business.*

- (to be / go) on a trip

Example: *We were on a trip this past weekend.*

- (to be / go) a tour

Example: *Have you ever been on a tour of the French countryside?*

- (to be / go) on an excursion

Example: *We went on an excursion to Versailles when we were in Paris.*

5. Adjective Prepositions (part 1)

about / at/ by / for/ from

ABOUT

Use the following adjectives followed by 'about'. Each group of adjectives have the same or related meanings. Use the verb 'to be' with these expressions.

- angry / annoyed / furious about something

Example: *I'm really angry about our losses on the stock market!*

- excited about something

Example: *He's excited about his birthday party next week.*

- worried / upset about something

Example: *He's worried about his upcoming examinations.*

- sorry about something

Example: *I'm very sorry about Losing your book.*

AT

Use the following adjectives followed by 'at'. Each group of adjectives have the same or related meanings. Use the verb 'to be' with these expressions.

- good / excellent / brilliant at something OR at doing something

Example: *They are excellent at planning fun parties.*

- bad / hopeless at something OR at doing something

Example: *Unfortunately, I'm hopeless at being on time.*

AT / BY

Use the following adjectives followed by 'at' or 'by'. Each group of adjectives have the same or related meanings. Use the verb 'to be' with these expressions.

- amazed / astonished / shocked / surprised at OR by something

Example: *I was amazed at his stamina.*

FOR

Use the following adjectives followed by 'for'. Each group of adjectives have the same or related meanings. Use the verb 'to be' with these expressions.

- angry with someone for something

Example: *I'm really angry with John for his total lack of responsibility.*

- famous for something

Example: *She's famous for her watercolor paintings.*

- responsible for something

Example: *You'll have to speak to John, he's responsible for customer complaints.*

- sorry for doing something

Example: *He says he's sorry for shouting at you.*

- (to feel or be) sorry for someone

Example: *I really feel sorry for Pam.*

FROM

Use the following adjectives followed by 'from'.

- different from someone / something

Example: *His photographs are very different from his paintings.*

6. Adjective Prepositions (part 2)

'of / on / to / with'

OF

Use the following adjectives followed by 'of'. Each group of adjectives have the same or related meanings. Use the verb 'to be' with these expressions.

- nice / kind / good / generous of someone (to do something)

Example: *It was very nice of him to buy me a present.*

- mean of someone (to do something)

Example: *It was very mean of Susan to say that to Tom.*

- stupid / silly of someone (to do something)

Example: *I'm afraid it was stupid of me to come.*

- intelligent / clever / sensible of someone (to do something)

Example: *That was quite sensible of Tom.*

- polite of someone (to do something)

Example: *It was very polite of Peter to invite my sister to the party.*

- impolite / rude of someone (to do something)

Example: *I can't believe how rude it was of Jack to shout at his daughter in front of all those people.*

- unreasonable of someone (to do something)

Example: *Don't be so hard on yourself! It's unreasonable of you to expect to understand everything immediately.*

- proud of something or someone

Example: *I'm very proud of my daughter's wonderful progress in school.*

- ashamed of someone or something

Example: *She's ashamed of her bad grades.*

- jealous / envious of someone or something

Example: *She's really envious of her sister's wealth.*

- aware / conscious of something

Example: *Teens are often overly conscious of skin blemishes.*

- capable / incapable of something

Example: *Peter is quite capable of conducting the meeting on his own.*

- fond of someone or something

Example: *She is so fond of her niece.*

- short of something

Example: *I'm afraid I'm short of cash tonight.*

- tired of something

Example: *I'm tired of your complaining!*

ON

Use the following adjective followed by 'on'. Use the verb 'to be' with these expressions.

- to be keen on something

Example: *She is very keen on horses.*

TO

Use the following adjectives followed by 'to'. Each group of adjectives have the same or related meanings. Use the verb 'to be' with these expressions.

- married / engaged to someone

Example: *Jack is engaged to Jill.*

- nice / kind / good / generous to someone

Example: *She was very generous to me when I was staying with her.*

- mean / impolite / rude / unpleasant / unfriendly / cruel to someone

Example: *How can you be so unfriendly to your neighbors?*

- similar to something

Example: *His painting is similar to Van Gough.*

WITH

Use the following adjectives followed by 'with'. Each group of adjectives have the same or related meanings. Use the verb 'to be' with these expressions.

- angry / annoyed / furious with someone for something

Example: *I'm furious with my brother for having lied to me!*

- delighted / pleased / satisfied with something

Example: *He is quite satisfied with his results.*

- disappointed with something

Example: *She's really disappointed with her new car.*

- bored / fed up with something

Example: *Let's go. I'm fed up with this party.*

- crowded with (people, tourists, etc.)

Example: *Disneyland is crowded with tourists in July.*

7. Prepositions of Time: in, on, at

In	At	On
+ month or year <i>In March, In 2003</i>	+ precise time <i>At 3:30 p.m., At 4:01, At noon</i>	+ days, dates <i>On April 2, On March 3, 1999, On Saturday,</i>
+ season <i>In the summer, In the winter</i>	+ festival period <i>At Christmas/Easter</i>	+ festival day <i>On Christmas day</i>
+ morning, afternoon, evening- <i>In the morning, In the evening</i>		+ day + morning, evening, afternoon <i>On Saturday morning</i>
	+ the weekend (<i>British</i>) <i>at the weekend</i>	+ the weekend (<i>American</i>) <i>on the weekend</i>
+ the night <i>In the night (The middle)</i>	+ night <i>At night (General)</i>	+ night <i>On the night (Specific)</i>
	+ the same time <i>at the same time</i>	
	+ present <i>at present</i>	

Remember:

When we say **last, next, every, this** we do not also use **at, in, on**.

- I went to London **last** June. (*not in last* June)
- He's coming back **next** Tuesday. (*not on next* Tuesday)
- I go home **every** Easter. (*not at every* Easter)
- We'll call you **this** evening. (*not in this* evening)

8. Prepositions of Place: in, on at

In general, we use:

- **in** for an ENCLOSED SPACE
- **on** for a SURFACE
- **at** for a POINT

in	on	at
ENCLOSED SPACE	SURFACE	POINT
in the garden	on the wall	at the corner
in London	on the ceiling	at the bus stop
in France	on the door	at the door
in a box	on the cover	at the top of the page
in my pocket	on the floor	at the end of the road
in my wallet	on the carpet	at the entrance
in a building	on the menu	at the crossroads
in a car	on a page	at the front desk

Look at these examples:

- Jane is waiting for you **at** the bus stop.
- The shop is **at** the end of the street.
- When will you arrive **at** the office?
- Do you work **in** an office?
- I have a meeting **in** New York.
- Do you live **in** Japan?
- The author's name is **on** the cover of the book.
- You are standing **on** my foot.
- I live **on** the 7th floor **at** 21 Oxford Street **in** London.

Notice the use of the prepositions of place, **in**, **on** and **at** in these standard expressions:

in	on	at
in a car	on a bus	at home
in a taxi	on a train	at work
in a helicopter	on a plane	at school
in a boat	on a ship	at university
in a lift (elevator)	on a bicycle, on a motorbike	at college
in the newspaper	on a horse, on an elephant	at the top
in the sky	on the radio, on television	at the bottom
in a row	on the left, on the right	at the side
in Oxford Street	on the way	at reception

Done^^

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