

Verbs + prepositions

Explanations

This unit focuses on a selection of verbs, including their adjectival forms. Many verbs have other uses followed by *-ing* or infinitive (see Grammar 18, 19).

Passive uses with *by* are not included. See also Grammar 23, 24, 25.

Verbs followed by
in

absorbed in something (especially *absorbed in her work/a book*)

confide in someone

be engrossed in something

implicate someone in something

involve someone in something

result in something

specialise in something

succeed in something

Verbs followed by
for

account for something

allow for something (to take into consideration)

apologise for something/someone (on their behalf: *Let me apologise for Jack.*)

blame someone *for* something

care for something/someone

cater for something/someone

charge someone *for* something (make them pay for it)

count for something (especially: *I count for nothing in this company.*)

earmark something *for* a particular use

pay for someone/something

Verbs followed by
of

accuse someone *of* something

convict someone *of* something

remind someone *of* something

suspect someone *of* something

Verbs followed by
with

acquaint someone *with* something

associate someone *with* something

charge someone *with* something

clutter with something (especially passive: *The room was cluttered with boxes.*)

coincide with something

collide with something

comply with something

concern with something (usually passive: *be concerned with*)

confront someone *with* something

confuse someone/something *with* someone/something

cram with something (especially passive: *be crammed with*)

deal with someone/something
discuss something *with* someone
face with something (especially passive: *be faced with*)
ingratiate oneself *with* someone
meet with something (especially: *meet with an accident*)
pack with something (especially passive: *be packed with*)
plead with someone
provide someone *with* something
tamper with something
trust someone *with* something

Verbs followed by
from

bar someone *from* a place
benefit from something
derive something *from* something
deter someone *from* something
differ from something
distinguish one thing *from* another thing (also *distinguish between* two things)
distract someone *from* something
exempt someone *from* something
expel someone *from* a place
refrain from something
resign from something
result from something
stem from something
suffer from something
translate one language *from/into* another language

Verbs followed by
on

base something *on* someone
blame something *on* someone
centre something *on* something (usually passive: *be centred on*)
concentrate something *on* something
decide on something
depend on someone/something
elaborate on something
impose on someone
insist on something/someone doing something
pride oneself *on* something

Verbs followed by
against

insure something *against* something
protest against something

Verbs followed by
about

argue about something
be concerned about something (*be worried about*)
boast about something
decide about something
protest about something

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Verbs followed by out | <i>phase something out</i> |
| Verbs followed by at | <i>glance at something</i> <i>guess at something</i> <i>hint at something</i> <i>marvel at something</i> |
| Verbs followed by to | <i>answer to something</i> (especially: <i>answer to a description</i>) <i>appeal to someone</i> (<i>beg</i>) <i>It appeals to me.</i> (meaning I like the idea.) <i>apply oneself to something</i> (<i>This rule doesn't apply to you.</i>) <i>attend to something</i> said/heard <i>attribute something to someone</i> <i>commit oneself to something</i> (especially passive: <i>be committed to</i>) <i>confess to something</i> <i>devote oneself to something</i> <i>prefer one thing to another thing</i> <i>react to something</i> <i>refer to something</i> (<i>This number refers to the next page.</i>) <i>refer someone to someone</i> (<i>The doctor referred me to a specialist.</i>) <i>be resigned to something</i> <i>resort to something</i> <i>see to something</i> (meaning <i>make sure it is done</i>) <i>subject someone to something</i> (stressed: <i>subject</i>) <i>succeed to the throne</i> <i>be used to doing something</i> |

Practice

1 Complete each sentence with one suitable preposition.

- a) I really prefer just about anything *to* watching television.
- b) This year's conference coincided two other major conventions.
- c) Is it possible to insure my bike theft?
- d) The problem stems the government's lack of action.
- e) When I asked Jean, she hinted the chance of a promotion for me.
- f) Being rich doesn't count much on a desert island.
- g) I pleaded John to change his mind, but he wouldn't listen.
- h) I can't stand the way she is always boasting her wealthy parents.
- i) My grandfather is always confusing Madonna Maradona.
- j) Could you please refrain smoking in the lecture hall.

2 Complete the text with one suitable verb in each space.

I had a difficult time last year with my health. For several months I was (1) *suffering* from periodic headaches and almost constant nausea. I made several visits to my GP, who (2) my headaches to migraine and (3) me with medication. When this failed to work he (4) on my nausea as the root cause, (5) my headaches on the nausea. I was (6) to five blood tests, none of which revealed anything significant. I (7) my diet with the doctor at length, and we tried eliminating certain foods from my meals. He (8) , for example, I might (9) from a low-fibre diet. But still the symptoms persisted, and I was starting to (10) myself to feeling ill for the rest of my life. I was understandably concerned about the possibility of it being something serious, even a brain tumour, but the doctor said that my anxiety in this respect (11) from nervous tension and stress. After six months I was (12) to a consultant at the hospital, who (13) in stomach disorders. She said that, even (14) for my age and stressful lifestyle, it was still abnormal to experience symptoms like these for so long. She (15) on all the possible causes of nausea in detail, and suggested that in my case the nausea might be the result of a liver disorder.

3 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

- a) Peter always trusts me with his secrets.

in

Peter *always confides in* me.

- b) A true story forms the basis of Mary's new novel.

on

Mary's new novel a true story.

- c) I thought it was marvellous that Jane could jump so high.

at

I to jump so high.

- d) A lot of people were packed on to the bus.

with

The bus people.

- e) You were in my dreams last night.

about

I last night.

- f) Danny was asked to leave the school for bad behaviour.

from

Danny was for bad behaviour.

- g) This house makes me think of my own home!

of

This house my own home.

- h) Tina rewrote the French book in Spanish.

from

Tina into Spanish.

- i) Christmas and roast turkey go together in my mind.

with

Christmas roast turkey in my mind.

- j) I think a rest would do you good.

from

I think you a rest.

4 Put one word in each space. Each word is a form of a verb listed at the beginning of this unit.

- a) The idea of marriage doesn't ...*appeal*..... to me.
- b) We in finding Ann's house at the second attempt.
- c) However poor I was I would not to stealing.
- d) Have you for the wind speed in your calculations?
- e) He confessed when he was with the evidence.
- f) You need to yourself more to your work.
- g) Alan himself on his punctuality.
- h) I was from doing my work by the music.
- i) I for breaking your electric drill.
- j) Tina for everyone's lunch yesterday, as she'd just won some money on the lottery.

5 Complete the text with a suitable preposition in each space.

It never ceases to amaze me how little notice some people now take (1) ...*of*..... rules in public places. When I was a child, it would never have occurred to me not to comply (2) the rules. If someone smoked in defiance of a 'No Smoking' sign on a train, they would rapidly be reminded (3) their transgression by several irate passengers, who would refer the errant smoker (4) the sign in no uncertain terms. What's more, the person accused would normally apologise (5) his indiscretion, and would certainly refrain (6) repeating his anti-social behaviour. These days reminding someone (7) their public duty not to drop litter or swear on the streets is likely to succeed only (8) unleashing a torrent of verbal abuse (9) the wrongdoer. Many people seem blithely unaware that, for example, the 'silence in the library' rule applies (10) them, as much as to anyone else. Asking them is not enough, pleading (11) them might still not deter them (12) their noisy chat, resorting (13) physical violence, an undesirable option, seems the only one likely to get a result. But, in all seriousness, what really annoys me is that one is made to feel churlish or old-fashioned just to insist (14) basic respect of everyday manners. Truly, it seems polite behaviour and good manners count (15) nothing in today's society.

6 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

- a) When he has to face a crisis, Tony panics.

faced

Tony panics *when faced with* a crisis.

- b) Collecting stamps gives me a lot of pleasure.

derive

I collecting stamps.

- c) The arrested man did not look the same as the wanted man.

answer

The arrested man did not the wanted man.

- d) The facts of the case were familiar to the lawyer.

acquainted

The lawyer the facts of the case.

- e) The deaths of over fifty people were caused by the storm.

resulted

The storm killed.

- f) We have given winter equipment to all the soldiers.

provided

All the soldiers winter equipment.

- g) It's just our luck that the funeral is at the same time as our holiday in Crete.

coincide

It's just our luck that in Crete.

- h) You haven't really explained exactly how the money disappeared.

account

Your explanation of the money.

- i) An ancient philosopher is supposed to have said these words.

attributed

These words an ancient philosopher.

- j) I'm sure Brian won't mind looking after the baby.

care

I'm sure Brian won't object the baby.

→ SEE ALSO

Grammar 18: Relative clauses

Grammar 19: Verbs + infinitive
or -ing

Grammar 23–25: Phrasal verbs

Grammar 26: Consolidation 5