

Explanations

It is assumed that a wide range of prepositions and their general use to describe time, place and position are already known.

This unit focuses on a selection of expressions. See Vocabulary section for more work in this area. Note that there may be other possible meanings for verbs and phrases given here, with different prepositions.

Prepositions following adjectives

- Of *afraid of, ashamed of, aware of, capable of, conscious of, fond of, full of, be good of* (someone to do something), *indicative of, irrespective of, jealous of*
- About *annoyed about, anxious about, certain about, excited about, pleased about, right about, serious about, sorry about, upset about, wrong about*
- With *angry with* (a person), *annoyed with* (a person), *bored with, commensurate with, connected with, be good at dealing with, happy with, incompatible with, obsessed with, pleased with, preoccupied with*
- At *angry at* (a person), *annoyed at* (a person), *be bad at, be good at, surprised at*
- On *keen on*
- To *addicted to, attentive to, grateful to, kind to, immune to, impervious to, indifferent to, liable to* (likely to suffer from), *married to, prone to*
- By *baffled by, bored by, detained by, distressed by, plagued by, shocked by, surprised by*
- For *early for, eligible for, famous for, late for, liable for* (legally responsible), *ready for, responsible for, sorry for*
- In *deficient in, experienced in, implicated in, interested in*
- From *absent from, derived from, different from, safe from, missing from*

Prepositions following nouns

- On *an authority on* (expert), *ban on, comment on, effect on, influence on, restriction on, tax on*
- To *access to, an alternative to, an attitude to, an exception to, a solution to, a threat to, a witness to*
- Over *be in authority over, have control over, be in dispute over something*
- With *contrast with, be in dispute with someone, encounter with, link with, quarrel with, relationship with*
- For *admiration for, craving for, credit for, cure for, desire for, disregard for, provision for, recipe for, respect for, responsibility for, room for, sympathy for*

Expressions
beginning with
prepositions

- In *in advance, in the balance, in all likelihood, in answer to, in any case, in charge of, in the charge of, in collaboration with, in comparison with, in comfort, in decline, in demand, in dispute, in distress, in the early stages, in earnest, in the end, be in favour of something, be in favour with someone, in fear of (being afraid of), in (good) condition, in harmony, in high spirits, in jeopardy, in one way or another, in practice, in recognition of, in response to, in short, in theory, in time, in trouble, in turn*
- With *with the exception of, with intent to, with regard to, with a view to*
- At *at any rate, at fault, at first sight, at the first/second attempt, at the end, at large*
- On *on average, on approval, on a regular basis, on behalf of, on the contrary, on good terms, on loan, on the market (for sale), on (its) merits, on offer, on purpose, on the verge of*
- Beyond *beyond belief, beyond a joke, beyond the shadow of a doubt*
- By *by coincidence, by mistake, by the time, by rights, by surprise*
- For *for fear of (because something might happen), for life, not for long, for the foreseeable future, for the time being*
- Out of *out of breath, out of control, out of danger, out of doors, out of focus, out of luck, out of the ordinary, out of pocket, out of practice, out of all proportion, out of reach, out of stock, out of work*
- Under *under age, under the circumstances, under control, under cover of, be under the impression that, under the influence of, under (a law), under an obligation, under pressure, under repair, under stress, under suspicion*
- Without *without a chance, without delay, without exception, without a word*
- After *after all*

Practice

- 1** 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) We get on very well with our next-door neighbours.
terms
 We are *on (very) good terms with* our next-door neighbours.
- b) Everybody wants Pauline as an after-dinner speaker.
demand
 Pauline as an after-dinner speaker.
- c) After winning the match, the whole team was in a happy mood.
spirits
 The whole team was because of their victory.
- d) I realised I had said something wrong.
conscious
 I having said something wrong.
- e) You're not lucky today, I'm afraid.
out
 You're today, I'm afraid.
- f) You can't get to the village because of the snow.
access
 There's the village because of the snow.
- g) The meeting will probably be cancelled.
probability
 The meeting will, , be cancelled.
- h) The students are living temporarily in a caravan.
being
 For the students are living in a caravan.
- i) I intend to discover the truth somehow or other.
or
 One I intend to discover the truth.
- j) The soldiers entered the castle while it was dark.
cover
 Under , the soldiers entered the castle.

2 Put one suitable preposition in each space.

- a) Helen had great admiration *for* her history teacher.
- b) I'm afraid I'm not very good animals.
- c) The favourite dropped out of the race the early stages.
- d) I was the impression that you liked Indian food.
- e) The minister stated that no real alternative the plan existed.
- f) This town is famous its hand-woven carpets.
- g) Your performance this term contrasts very favourably last term's.
- h) Many young people become addicted drugs through ignorance.
- i) Apparently a number of army officers were implicated the plot.
- j) Carol doesn't have a very good relationship her mother.

3 Complete the text with one word in each space. The words you need are all taken from the beginning of the unit.

Well, welcome to the class everybody. I'm sure you're all dying to show me exactly what you're (1) *capable* of. I hope to see your faces at the pool a lot from now on. If you're (2) about swimming, you really need to be doing it on a (3) basis, say two or three times a week – in addition to these teaching sessions. Now a bit about the course. In the early (4) , we'll be working on the basics – breathing, body position and so on. Today we're going to work on putting the head underwater, with a (5) to getting you all swimming correctly, with the head partly submerged. If you don't succeed at the first (6) , don't worry. And please don't be (7) of the water – just try and relax. Eventually we'll progress to the big pool, but for the (8) being, we're going to be in the small pool, where you can stand up and practise your techniques. Now, the warm-up exercises we're going to start with today are designed to get you out of (9) , so keep your heads well clear of the water. These exercises may well be (10) from anything you're used to, as we'll be doing some jumping and hopping in the water.

4 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) Speaking for my colleagues, I would like to thank you.

of

On *behalf of my colleagues*, I would like to thank you.

- b) I thought you had accepted his offer.

under

I was that you had accepted his offer.

- c) Everyone was exhausted apart from Sally.

of

With, everyone was exhausted.

- d) I like to spend most of my time in the open air.

doors

I like to most of the time.

- e) I don't think you mean what you say about disliking me.

serious

I don't think you're disliking me.

- f) Nothing unusual ever happens here.

ordinary

Nothing out ever happens here.

- g) I wish I knew what to do about this problem.

solution

I wish I knew what this problem.

- h) You can walk to the station easily from the hotel.

within

The station is of the hotel.

- i) Karen received a medal for her services to the country.

recognition

Karen received a medal her services to the country.

- j) You have to pay your son's debts, as he is under age.

liable

You your son's debts, as he is under age.

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

David Peters, the Scottish long-jumper, has been awarded a knighthood in recognition (1) *of* his services to charity and the world of athletics. Sir David, as he will be known, will be knighted by the Queen in a ceremony next week. Mr Peters, who retired from athletics last year, had a talent which was, quite simply, (2) of the ordinary. All his performances were, (3) exception, characterised by great effort and determination. He seemed to thrive on difficult situations, and it was when (4) pressure, that he produced his greatest performances. In later years, he became increasingly prone (5) injury, and last year, his talents evidently (6) decline, he failed to regain his Olympic long-jump title, and promptly retired. At his best, however, his jumping was sometimes (7) belief, and in his greatest year, 2000, he broke the world record no fewer than four times. In the late 1990s he was single-handedly responsible (8) bringing British athletics out of a severe slump with his inspirational performances and personal charisma. Peters was capable (9) great generosity, and once, famously, failed a jump deliberately in order to let his great rival, Aravan Sijipal, win on his farewell appearance. When being interviewed, Peters was also an exception to the rule, for he always tried to praise others rather than blow his own trumpet. A deeply religious man, he was (10) dispute with the athletics authorities on more than one occasion for his refusal to compete on Sundays. His anti-drugs campaign had a great effect (11) young athletes all over Britain, and throughout his career, he remained very conscious (12) what he saw as his public duty in this respect. Many charitable organisations have reason to be grateful (13) him (14) the time he devoted to raising money for their causes.

6 Underline the correct word in each sentence.

- Diane showed a complete disregard for/with her own safety.
- I was totally baffled by/of Tim's behaviour.
- For Romeo and Juliet it was love at/with first sight.
- They wouldn't let me in the pub because I was below/under age.
- Our house has been in/on the market for months.
- You are perfectly capable for/of making your own bed, I would have thought!
- We walked on tiptoe for/from fear of being discovered
- This is one of the exceptions of/to the rule.
- I am surprised at/by you, forgetting your briefcase like that.
- We met at the hotel completely by/from coincidence.