

dependent prepositions (1)

Many verbs, nouns and adjectives are used with particular prepositions.

verb: I am **applying for** a holiday job at the zoo.

adjective: Valentino is **interested in** motorcycle racing.

noun: There has been an **increase in** the temperature.

Words with a similar or opposite meaning often take the same preposition.

care / worry **about** someone apply / ask / send **for** information depend / rely **on** someone

There are no really useful rules to help you. In the tables below there are some common dependent preposition combinations which you need to learn. (SO = somebody, ST = something).

verb + preposition

Today we **talked about** the problem.

The pen **belongs to** me.

What **happened to** John yesterday?

Don't **laugh at** me!

ask*
agree*
argue*
care
complain
forget
hear **about** SO / ST
know
laugh*
learn
talk
think*
worry
write

believe
participate **in** ST
succeed

consist
approve
get rid **of**
hear
think*

concentrate
rely **on** ST / SO
decide
depend

laugh* **at** SO / ST
look*

belong **to** SO / ST
happen
listen
refer
apologize
talk
write

recover **from** ST
suffer

agree **with** SO / ST
argue* SO

apologize ST
apply
hope
prepare
ask* **for** SO / ST
pay
look*
vote
wait
work
write

We can often put an *-ing* form after a preposition.

They talked **about closing** the school. I'm thinking **of buying** a motorbike.

He apologized **for losing** the compositions. He insisted **on coming** with us.

(*) Some verbs can go with different prepositions, depending on the situation.

I agree **with** you. I agree **about** the football team.

Lenny apologized **to** the teacher. Lenny apologized **for** arriving late.

What do you think **of** the concert? (= What is your opinion?)

My parents are thinking **about** a holiday abroad this year. (= They are considering it.)

He writes **for** a newspaper. He writes **about** sport. Did you write **to** your mother?

1 Underline the correct word.

- Do you believe in / for / about God?
- Lydia asked about / for / to our holiday.
- You need to ask someone who knows of / about / with computers.
- What I do next year depends on / of / to my marks.
- I can't stop thinking on / about / of the film. It was very disturbing.
- She belongs to / with / in a sports club and goes there twice a week.
- Dave was upset because everyone laughed at / about / for his new haircut.
- We're learning of / to / about the Hundred Years War at school this week.
- Don't argue at / with / about the teacher or you'll get into trouble.
- Look at my new shirt. What do you think about / of / on it?

2 Complete the sentence with *about*, *on*, *to*, *for* or *at*.

- Don't worry about the washing up. We'll do it later.
- You can't rely Rachel – she never arrives on time.
- Listen me or you won't know what to do.
- My mum has worked the same company all her life.
- In your answer you should refer three different examples.
- I waited the bus but it didn't come.
- I don't care the result of the match because I don't like football.
- Jane was upset because Joel forgot her birthday.
- Everything will be okay if you apologize the mistake.
- James always complains the food in the school canteen.
- Jim paid his holiday with the money he earned last summer.
- Please look me when I'm talking you.

3 First match the words from list A to the words in list B. Then complete the sentences with the pairs of words.

A: consists looking concentrate recovered agree apply hear participating

B: of at from about in for on with

- A CD consists of plastic and aluminium.
- Did you the accident on the radio?
- That man over there is me in a strange way.
- Beckham has his injury very quickly.
- I'd like to a place at university.
- It's important to the road when you're driving.
- I like acting and enjoyed the school play.
- John thought the film was good but Mary didn't him.

dependent prepositions (2)

verb + object + preposition

She **forgave him for** the mistake.

He **blamed everything on** me.

They **accused Jim of** the theft.

SO = someone

ST = something

arrest	SO	for	ST
blame			
charge			
forgive			
punish			
thank			
exchange	SO / ST		SO / ST
mistake			
provide	ST		SO
keep			
use			ST

help	SO	with	ST
present			
provide			
compare	SO / ST		SO / ST
discuss	ST		SO
share			

accuse	SO	of	ST
cure			
suspect			
remind			SO / ST

congratulate	SO	on	ST
blame	ST		SO

tell	SO	about	ST
remind			

invite	SO	to	ST
add	SO / ST		SO / ST
introduce			
prefer			
admit	ST		SO
explain			
give			
lend			
send			
show			

stop	SO	from	doing ST
prevent			
borrow	ST		SO
hide			

adjective + preposition

He's **not happy about** the results.

Shonagh was **disappointed by** the meal.

We are very **grateful for** your help.

aware	of	ST
made		
tired		
afraid		ST / SO
fond		
frightened		
jealous		
proud		
scared		

engaged	to	SO
friendly		
grateful		
married		
polite		
addicted		ST
limited		

angry	with	SO / ST
annoyed		
friendly		
patient		
bored		
satisfied		
disappointed		
pleased		

dressed	in	ST
interested		
involved		

angry	about	ST
excited		
happy		
worried		

bored	by	ST / SO
disappointed		
discouraged		
frightened		

made	from	ST
protected		

famous	for	ST
grateful		
known		
prepared		
responsible		SO / ST

1 Insert the missing prepositions *for, from, of, on, to* and *with* into the sentences.

- If you go to the USA you need to exchange euros /dollars. for
- The government should prevent young people drinking.
- He introduced his parents his new girlfriend.
- She borrowed a book me and hasn't returned it yet.
- Can you help me my homework?
- You should thank your aunt your birthday present.
- Can you add bread the shopping list?
- Are you hiding somebody?
- He accused her stealing the money.
- The school provides all students textbooks.
- They congratulated us winning the match.
- You remind me somebody famous.

2 Complete the sentences with a word from list A and a word from list B.

A: excited patient prepared protected made interested polite addicted frightened

B: about in to of by from for to with

- I am excited about the summer holidays.
- The paintings are damage by special glass.
- Are you the entrance exam?
- I am astronomy, not astrology.
- It looks like metal, but actually it is plastic.
- People can't stop smoking because they're nicotine.
- A good teacher must be students.
- Were you the thunder storm last night?
- She wasn't her boss so she lost her job.

3 Correct the adjectives and prepositions.

- He's very ~~proud with~~ his new car. proud of
- My parents weren't satisfied for my exam results.
- I'm afraid by spiders. Are you?
- He's very greedy, he never shares his sweets to anyone.
- I didn't know she was married with him!
- The class isn't very friendly about the new student.
- Students shouldn't be punished of not doing their homework.
- Lots of people now use the Internet by shopping.
- Getting angry in the computer doesn't help to fix it.
- Stop comparing me about my brother!

ANSWER KEY:

Source: B1 Destination. Macmillan.

Unit 55

Ex 1

a in b about c about d on e about f to
g at h about i with j of

Ex 2

a about b on c to d for e to f for g about
h about i for j about k for l at, to

Ex 3

a consists of b hear about c looking at
d recovered from e apply for f concentrate on
g participating in h agree with

Unit 56

Ex 1

- a If you go to the USA you need to exchange euros **for** dollars.
- b The government should prevent young people **from** drinking.
- c He introduced his parents **to** his new girlfriend.
- d She borrowed a book **from** me and hasn't returned it yet.
- e Can you help me **with** my homework?
- f You should thank your aunt **for** your birthday present.
- g Can you add bread **to** the shopping list?
- h Are you hiding **from** somebody?
- i He accused her **of** stealing the money.
- j The school provides all students **with** textbooks.
- k They congratulated us **on** winning the match.
- l You remind me **of** somebody famous.

Ex 2

a excited about b protected from c prepared for
d interested in e made of f addicted to
g patient with h frightened by i polite to

Ex 3

a ~~proud with~~ proud of b ~~satisfied for~~ satisfied with
c ~~afraid by~~ afraid of d ~~shares to~~ shares with
e ~~married with~~ married to f ~~friendly about~~ friendly to
g ~~punished of~~ punished for h ~~use by~~ use for
i ~~angry in~~ angry at j ~~comparing about~~ comparing with