

Department of Student Development and Services
Academic Skills Program

PREPOSITIONS



*The bird is **in** the cage.*



The bird is **on** the branch.

A preposition is a word which connects other individual words or groups of words in a sentence. It usually indicates some aspect of space and place, but it also links ideas of time and more. At first the concept of prepositions seem clear and simple, but the English Language Learner (ELL) may quickly become frustrated because preposition choice often has no logic; prepositions are often chosen because we have traditionally used them in a particular situation or with particular words for years. There may be no logical explanation as to why only certain prepositions go with certain words, especially verbs. In fact, we have thousands of these special verb and preposition combinations and they are called Phrasal Verbs. They cause the ELL a great deal of difficulty. Not only do certain prepositions fit with certain verbs, those particular combinations may have many different meanings, **largely idiomatic**.

Phrasal Verbs: For example, the phrasal verb “look at” has 4 different meanings: to physically focus your eyes on someone or something, to examine something in order to make a decision, to have a particular opinion about something, and to consider how much something will cost or how much time something will take!

There are a number of rules to guide you regarding use of prepositions, but you must take them with “a grain of salt,” meaning here that there are so many exceptions to these “rules” that your head would spin! The best guide you could have for choosing the correct preposition is actually just to read, read, read. The more you read, the more prepositional phrases you will see, and the more you will learn which words go with which preposition.

You may also start to understand that when two different prepositions are acceptable in certain situations, it is probably because the difference is either so subtle that it is difficult to explain or, in fact, the subtle difference has actually been forgotten years ago by the average English speaker. At that point, you just have to accept “Either way is okay” because it really is okay. Also, don’t forget that language is always changing. If enough people “break” a rule in English and it is obviously accepted by the majority of educated writers, the chances are the rule needs to be changed to reflect the changing times.

The same attitude of acceptance is required when we seem to have the same situation but use different prepositions. Often, the logic which created the difference has been forgotten. Examples: “You ride **in** the car, but you ride **on** the bus.” “I have an account **at** that bank” but “I have a safety-deposit box **in** that bank.”

Common Prepositions

about	before	except for	near	through
above	behind	excepting	next	throughout
according to	below	for	of	till
across	beneath	from	off	to
after	beside	in	on	toward
against	between	in addition to	onto	under
along	beyond	in back of	on top of	underneath
along with	but	in case of	out	unlike
among	by	in front of	out of	until
apart from	by means of	in place of	outside	up
around	concerning	inside	over	upon
as	despite	in spite of	past	up to
as for	down	instead of	regarding	with
at	during	into	round	within
because of	except	like	since	without

The Relationships that Prepositions Reveal

(This information regarding relationships was prepared by the Writing Centre of SMT. Parvatibai Chowgule College, Goa, India.)

<p>1. Place/Position At, above, across, against, among, before, behind, below, between, by, down, in, Inside, near, of, on, over, under, upon, with, within</p>	<p>At the door, at his office, above the sky, a barrier across the road, stood against him, among the girls, stood before her, behind the house, below the table, between you and me, down the river, in/inside the class, near the corner of the street, on the tale, on the top of the mountain, under the table, with his fiend, within the campus</p>
<p>2. Time At, after, before, by, during, from, for, in, on, since, till, until, within, throughout</p>	<p>At 9 a.m., at night, after 4 o'clock, before her department, before the 15th of July, by 6 p.m., during the whole summer, from the 1st of January, from January 1st, for a week, in June in 1995, in the evening, on Sunday, till she comes, within four months, throughout the year</p>
<p>3. Direction/movement at, away, across, down, for from, into, off, over, out of, round, to, towards, up</p>	<p>threw stones at the dogs, away from India, ran across the field, went down the hill, start for Mumbai, fled from home, jumped into the pool, fell off the train, flew over my head, came out of the room, tour round the world, go to school, turn to the right, walk to the door, towards north, climb up the hill</p>
<p>4. Manner/Means By, with, through, from</p>	<p>Paid by cash, powered by electricity, it's 5:30 by my watch, taller by two centimeters, with love, cut it with a knife, through a friend, from gratitude</p>
<p>5. Reason/Purpose</p>	<p>Died for the country, took medicine for a cold, suffering from cold, died of cancer, Lost his watch through negligence, read to learn, shivers with fever</p>
<p>6. Possession/relationship Of, with</p>	<p>The book of Ravi, the coat of my grandfather, the boy with dark hair, I live with my cousins. Mix the flour with some milk.</p>
<p>7. Standard/Rate/Value/Speed At, by</p>	<p>The bank charges interest at 9 percent. Cloth is sold by the meter. Rice is sold at \$3 per kg. The train is running at 90 km. per hour.</p>

Rules to Guide You in the Use of Prepositions

PREPOSITIONS TO INDICATE TIME

- **In a specific time period** (during is also correct but is less common)
Example: **in** 2010, **in** July, **in** the spring, **in** a few months (seconds, days, years)
- **In a period of the day**
Example: **in** the morning (afternoon, evening) or **in** the daytime (morning, evening) but **at** night
- **For a period of time**
*I have been a mother **for** thirty years.*
- **On a specific day or date**
Example: **on** Friday, **on** my birthday, **on** July 10th
- **At a specific time or period of time**
Example: **at** noon, **at** 2:00, **at** dawn, **at** dusk, **at** nightfall, **at** twilight, **at** takeoff (the time a plane leaves), **at** breakfast (anytime a specific meal takes place)
- **By a specific time** (means no later than that time)
*I will meet you at the theatre **by** 7 p.m.*
- **Until a specific time (continuing up to that time)**
*Yesterday, I worked **until** 6 o'clock.*
- **Since a date or an hour**
*They have been living next door to us **since** 1989.*
- **During a continuing time period (or within the time period)**
*My son was feverish **during** the night.*
- **Miscellaneous time expressions**
***On** time (that is, promptly)*
***In** a while*
***At** the beginning (of a day, month, year)*
***In** the middle **of** (a day, month, year)*
***At** the end **of** (a day, month, year)*
***From** time to time (that is, occasionally)*

PREPOSITIONS OF TIME

in – on – at

<i>IN</i>	
1. with month	in January, in July
2. with years	in 2012
3. with times of the day	in the morning, in the evening
4. with seasons	in the spring, in the fall
<i>ON</i>	
1. with dates (month & day)	on May 18, on February 4
2. with days of the week	on Monday, on Saturday night
3. with special days & holidays	on my birthday, on New Year's Day, on Christmas Day
<i>AT</i>	
1. exact time	at 6:00, at 7:30
2. with times of the day	at noon, at night, at midnight

PREPOSITIONS TO INDICATE PLACE

- **In a location surrounded by something else**

Example: ***in** Alberta, **in** Calgary, **in** downtown Bombay, **in** the kitchen, **in** the apartment, **in** the bathtub*

- **At a specific location**

Example: ***at** your house, **at** the bank, **at** the corner of Third Avenue and Main Street*

- **On the top or the surface of something**

***On** page 20, **on** the second floor (but **in** the attic, or **in** the basement), **on** Wellington Street, **on** the mezzanine, **on** street level.*

- **In a country, area, state, city or neighborhood**

***In** India, **in** Goa, **in** Regina*

- **On a street or block**

*We live **on** Birchgrove Drive*

- **At a specific address**

*We live **at** 185 Birchgrove Drive*

- **At an intersection of two streets**

*We live **at** the corner of Birchgrove and Tillicum. Let's meet **at** Lorne and Main.*

PREPOSITIONS FOR VEHICLES AND CHAIRS

- **In(to) and out of small vehicles like cars and chairs with arms**

*I got **into** the cab as someone else was getting **out of** it.*

*My father likes to sit **in** his big, comfortable chair.*

- **On and off (of) for large vehicles (like planes, trains, buses, and boats)**

And armless chairs or any long seat like a bench or a sofa.

*We rode **on** the subway and got **off** at our stop*

*He's sitting **on** that bench over there.*

*The man **on** the wooden chair is his brother.*

OTHER PREPOSITIONS

- **For a reason or for someone who benefits**

*Joel went to the barber **for** a haircut.*

*My neighbor asked me to mail this letter **for** him.*

*I bought a present **for** my daughter.*

- **About a subject (or on a subject)**

*We were talking **about** our plan **to** visit India.*

*I recently read an article **about** climate change.*

- **Between two, among three or more**

*We shared the apple **between** the two of us.*

The six members of the board discussed it **among** themselves.

- **From a starting point to a destination**

We drove **from** Regina to Winnipeg.

- **Toward (in the direction of) a place**

I walked **toward** my friend's house but turned south before I arrived there.

- **Into (entering) a place or space**

Jack went **into** her house through the back door.

- **In (inside of) a place or space**

He's been running **in** the gym; he hasn't been outside yet.

- **On a surface**

The book is **on** the table.

The portrait is hanging **on** the wall.

- **Off a surface**

I took the book **off** the table.

The painting fell **off** the wall.

Location:

Normally, prepositions come before nouns or pronouns.

Example: I gave a book to the girl.

The cat jumped on the rat.

I know nothing about her.

Notice that prepositional phrases that show place come before those that show time.

Example: *Monica lived and worked **in** India **in** 2011.*

A Special Contrast Between "on" and "in"

Many students have trouble with these two words, especially if they speak Spanish since Spanish has only one preposition, **en**, to mean both **on** and **in**.

1. To show place relationships:

- "On" generally means "on the surface of" or "on top of"; on the floor, on a street, on (top of) a bed (without sheets over one's body), on a large vehicle (a bus, a train, a plane or a boat), on a chair (generally one without arms), on a long seat which is used as a sofa or a couch, on (or at) a street corner, on a bicycle (or motorcycle), on (top of) a desk.

- “In” generally means “inside of” or “within”: in a room, in the water, in a small vehicle, in a bed (with the sheets over one’s body), in(side) the corner of a room(the walls enclose the person or object, in a chair (generally one with arms), in a container, in a desk drawer.

2. To show time relationships:

- “On” refers to a day or a date: on Saturday, on July 5, 1990, or on Thanksgiving.
- “In” generally means “within a period of time,” including a month or a season: in January, in summer, in an hour or a minute, in a while

3. To express ideas within idioms

- On foot, on time, every hour on the hour, in charge, in the mood.

PREPOSITIONS THAT REPEAT THE MEANINGS OF PREFIXES

A prefix is something attached to the beginning of a word. For example, the prefix re- means “again,” so the word *review* literally means “view again.” Many words in English come from Latin; here is a list of some common Latin prefixes, along with their meanings.

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
ad-, ac-, ap-, ag	<i>to</i>	<i>admit, acceptable, apply, agree</i>
con-, com-	<i>with</i>	<i>converse, communicate</i>
ex-, e-	<i>from</i>	<i>excuse, emigrate</i>
in-, im-	<i>in</i>	<i>involved, implicit</i>

Many times—but not always—a word with one of these prefixes also repeat the meaning of the prefix in a preposition following the word.

*admitted to a school; acceptable to me, apply to the school; agree to a contract
 conversed with me; communicated with a friend
 excused from class; emigrate from a country,
 involved in a crime, implicit in his statement*



TRICKY LITTLE MONSTERS

Here are some prepositions that often confuse us:

1. Between – Among

Use **between** when referring to two persons, places, or things, and use **among** when referring to three or more.

*The chapatti was shared **between** Monica and Vernul.
 The rice was shared **among** Abhilasha, Naina and Swati.*

Between may also be used to express a relationship of one thing to each of several other things on a one-to-one basis.

*A separate agreement was signed **between** Goa University and each of its 27 colleges.*

2. Beside – Besides

Beside means “by the side of”; **besides** means “in addition to”

*Yes, the person sitting **beside** Mr. Dange is Ms. Blais, our guest speaker.*

*Do you know what is on the menu **besides** rice?*

3. Since – for

Since means “from a point of time in the past.” **For** is used to refer to a period of time. It shows duration.

*Emily has been working **for two hours**. OR Emily has been working **since 10a.m.***

4. Inside – Outside

Do not use the preposition **of** after **inside** or **outside**. When referring to time, use **within**, not **inside of**.

*The conference room door is the first door **inside** the main entrance (not **inside of**)*

*We expect to have our forecasts completed **within** the week. (not **inside of**)*

5. All – Both

Use **of** after **all** or **both** only when **all** or **both** refers to a pronoun.

Omit **of** if either word refers to a noun.

***All** the contracts were signed by Mr. Sawant. (**of** is not needed)*

***All of** them were signed by Mr. Sawant. (**of** is required here)*

6. At – To – In – Into

At and **in** denote position; **to** and **into** signify motion

Monica arrived **at** the airport and immediately went to the ticket counter (At for position; to for motion)

They went **into** the building and set up the display **in** the lobby. (into for motion; **in** for position)

7. Behind – Not In Back Of

Use **behind**, not **in back of**. **In front of**, however, is correct.

Until the messenger arrives, place these cartons **behind**, not **in front of**, the file cabinets.

8. From – Of

From is generally used with persons; **off** is used with things (**Off** is used with persons only when something on the person is physically being lifted away) Never use **of** or **from** after **off**.

Get some extra copies of the book from Monica. (Not **off** Monica)

After a few hours, take the bandage off your arm. (Something is being physically lifted away)

Let's move these groceries off the table. (Not **off of** the table)

9. Where, Not Where At or Where to

Adding **at** or **to** after **where** is illiteracy.

10. Help not help from

Do not use the word from after help.

Although we knew the answer, we could not help asking Mr. Rodrigues the question.

11. Opposite, Not Opposite To

Do not use the word **to** after the word **opposite**.

*The new building is directly **opposite** the library.*

12. Like, Not Like For

We told Mr. Dange that we would **like** him to give the keynote speech at the banquet.

13. By and With

14. Use by and With

Use “by” when you want to refer to the doer of an action. Example: *The tiger was killed by Laxman* (Laxman is the doer; he killed the tiger). Use “with” when you want to refer to the instrument with which the action was performed. Ex: *The tiger was killed with a gun* (The gun is the instrument with which the tiger was killed).

COMMON EXPRESSIONS USING SPECIFIC PREPOSITIONS

- abhorrence of (She has an abhorrence of onions)
- abhorrent to (Onions are abhorrent to her)
- abide by (with) a decision (I hope he abides by (with) his decision)
- abide with a person (It is important to abide with someone you love)
- abound in (with) (The lake abounded with fish)
- accompanied by (Would you like to be accompanied by a friend?)
- accompanied with (He was accompanied with a bad temper)
- accuse someone of something (She was accused of stealing the diamond ring)
- acquaintance with (She had an acquaintance with the president. She was acquainted with the president)
- acquit of (She was acquitted of stealing the diamond ring)
- adapted to/adjusted to (My friend adapted to living in Canada after a few years)
- adapted for (I adapted the plate into a spoon for eating my soup)
- adapted from a work (The movie *The Pearl Earring* was adapted from a painting by Vermeer.)
- affection for someone (Joel felt a lot of affection for Roland)
- affiliated with (Chowgule College is affiliated with Goa University in India)
- affinity between (The two friends shared a strong affinity between themselves.)
- afraid of something (I am afraid of violent movies)
- agree to a proposal (She agreed with his idea that the table should be moved across the room)(the object is not a person or idea)
- agree with someone about something (I agreed with her that movies should be uplifting)(the object is a person or idea)
- agree to something that is not a person or idea (Ranjit has agreed to the proposal)
- agreeable to/with (She was agreeable to going to dinner with him)
- alarmed at something (The dog was alarmed at the storm)
- a lot of something (It is nice to have a lot of money)

- amazed at something (I am always amazed at the Aurora Borealis)
- amused at or by someone or something (She was amused by his exaggerated stories)
- angry at a thing or condition (He was angry at his lack of strength)
- angry with (She was angry at him for ignoring her)
- approve of someone or something (He approved of his friend's tenacity)
- argue about something (They argued about legalizing prostitution)
- argue with someone for/against something (She argued for legalizing; he argued against it)
- arrive at a place in a city or country (They arrived at the resort by the ocean)
- ashamed of something (Most of us have been ashamed of something at some time in our lives)
- ask something of someone /ask someone for something (John's boss asked him for his report)
- associated with someone in some activity (He was associated with Bob in the soccer team)
- assure someone of something (He assured Emily of his true love)
- at the top of (Gretzky was at the top of the hockey world for years)
- attend to (Students should attend to their professors)
- attend upon/ wait on (The servant attended upon his employers)
- aware of someone or something (She was aware of his attention at the dinner party)
- bargain with someone for something (Emily loves to bargain with the sales clerk for a cheaper price on the clothing she wants)
- because of something or someone (Georgia was afraid to go to India because of the long plane ride)
- believe in something (However, she believed in her tenacity to survive)
- beneficial to (Eating vegetables is always beneficial to one's health)
- bestow upon (She bestowed a warm smile on him)
- blame someone for something (She blamed her sister for the accident)
- buy from (You can buy shoes from that store)
- by means of (By means of climbing the rocks, she reached the top of the hill)
- call on someone (Janet called on her co-worker to see if she wanted to go out for a tea)
- call to someone from a distance (Emily called to Eric from across the street to wait for her)
- call up someone on the telephone (Wayne called Sarah up for a date)
- capable of something (Joel was capable of building stairs)
- certain of something (We can never be certain of everything but we can be certain of some things)
- challenge someone to something (Georgia challenged Emily to finish her Masters in Mathematics)
- characteristic of something (It was characteristic of Emily that she would accept the challenge)

- cheat someone out of something (Kyle cheated her out of \$100 that she paid for uniforms when he did not deliver them).
- close to someone or something (She felt close to him when he showed that he cared)
- comment on someone or something (She commented on the weather)
- communicate something to someone (The supervisor communicated his displeasure to his employees).
- comparable to something (Barbara's running speed is comparable to Sandra's)
- compare to the mirror image (assert a likeness) (Jentin is compared to the mirror image of his brother)
- compare with the reverse side (analyze for similarities or differences) (It is interesting to compare *Pride and Prejudice* with *Mansfield Park*.)
- complain to someone or something (The customer complained to the store about the merchandise)
- compliance with (The employee had to change his report in compliance with his supervisor's request)
- comply with (The employee had to comply with his supervisor's request)
- composed of (The soup was composed of tasty meat, vegetables and water)
- conceive of something (He thought he was so unattractive that he could not conceive of her loving him)
- concerned about someone or something (A mother is always concerned about her child)
- confer on/upon (The chancellor of the university conferred a degree on the student)
- confer with/talk to (Before they built the house, they had to confer with an architect)
- confess to someone (The young boy confessed to his teacher that he had stolen the toy)
- confide in (The two good friends often confide in each other)
- confidence in something or someone (He had confidence in his ability to finish the book on time)
- confident of (He was confident of being able to finish the book on time)
- conform to (The girl wanted to buy a new dress in order to conform to the latest popular style)
- congratulate someone on something (Bill congratulated Elizabeth on her swimming award.)
- conscious of something (She gradually became conscious of the man sitting next to her on the bus)
- consideration for someone (Out of consideration for her friend, she did not phone her too early in the morning)
- consist of/ made up of (The dessert consisted of lemon and raisins)
- contempt for someone or something (She had nothing but contempt for the pedophile)
- contribute to something (The philanthropist contributed thousands to the charity)
- control over someone or something (Feminists argue that men have total control over women)

- convenient for/suitable or easy for (Would it be convenient for you to meet me at the theatre just before the movie begins?)
- convenient to (Her house is very convenient to school)
- convict someone of something (The woman was convicted of stealing the diamond ring)
- copy from someone (Because he did not understand the teacher, Rob copied his assignment from his classmate)
- correspond with/to (The shoes she bought corresponded with her dress)
- count on someone for something (I know that I can always count on you to help me when I am in trouble)
- credit for (Emily should be given credit for the hard work she has done over the past few years)
- cure for (So far, the scientists of the world have not found a cure for cancer)
- cure someone of something (We would all like to see Alzheimer's patients be cured of this terrible disease)
- deal in goods and services (Mr. Zheng deals in computer software)
- deal with someone (The library staff did not know how to deal with the angry patron.)
- decide on something (Ginger has to decide on the marriage proposal)
- dedicate something to someone (The writer dedicated her book to her husband)
- defend someone from something or against something (He defended his name from slander)
- delighted with someone or something (The grandmother was so delighted with her sweet granddaughter!)
- delight in someone or something (When two people are in love, they take delight in each other)
- demand something of someone (The robber demanded three bags of gold of the bank manager)
- depend on someone for something (We can always depend on our friends for comfort when we are sad)
- deprive someone of something (The mother deprived her son of his favorite toy when he acted badly)
- derogatory to (The teenager was derogatory to his parents.)
- designed for something (The architect designed the library for lightness and openness.)
- desire for something (Everyone desires a good life for their children)
- die of or from a disease (My father died of heart disease when he was 52.)
- different from someone or something (not different that) (Spanish is different from Chinese)
- disagree with (Husbands and wives sometimes disagree)
- disappointed with/in someone (Sandra was disappointed in her husband because he lied to her)

- discrepancy between two things (The accountant saw that there was a discrepancy between the company's books and their cash on hand.)
- discrepancy in something (The accountant found a discrepancy in the company's books.)
- disgusted with someone (Angela would not talk to John because she was disgusted with him over his bad behavior)
- dispense with (Our company decided to dispense with the wearing of formal suits to work.)
- displeased with someone or something (We were displeased with the service we received in that store)
- distrust of someone or something. (We should not make a habit of distrusting people. Most people are honest.)
- do something about something (Eric does not like to do physics homework, but he will when he is older)
- doubted someone about something (Rachael doubted Ginger when Ginger told her that she was moving in Calgary)
- dream of or about something (Joel dreamt about Ginger's travels)
- due to someone or something (Emily was sad due to her friend's sickness)
- duty to someone (A child has a duty to his/her parents to be the best he/she can be)
- engaged to someone (Ginger is engaged to her childhood sweetheart.)
- employ for a purpose (He was employed for the purpose of moving the books)
- employed at a stipulated salary (He was employed at a stipulated salary of 60 thousand a year)
- employed in, on, or upon a work or business (He is employed in construction.)
- enter into or upon (start) (He entered into salary negotiations with a positive attitude)
- enter into (become a party to) (He entered into the Student Union last year)
- enter in a record (He entered in a record of the number of students visiting the Writing Centre this year)
- enter at a given point (He entered the building at gate B)
- escape from something (He escaped from a horde of fans)
- excel in/at something (Wayne Gretzky excelled at hockey)
- exception to a statement (There are exceptions to almost all grammar rules)
- excuse for something (Her excuse for failing the test was feeling ill)
- excuse someone from something (Alice was not feeling very well so her teacher excused her from gym class.)
- explain something to someone (I will be happy to explain how to use punctuation to you)
- failure of someone in something (The failure of Alice in chemistry made her family upset)
- faithful to someone or something (A man should be faithful to his wife)
- fall in love with someone (We all want to fall in love with someone)

- familiarize with (When we travel, it takes a little time to familiarize ourselves with the new area)
- fascinated with something or someone (Alice was fascinated with the beautiful colors of India)
- fearful of something (A lot of people are fearful of snakes)
- fond of someone (Elderly people are usually fond of children)
- for the purpose of (For the purpose of getting good grades, students must study hard)
- for the sake of (He worked hard to make a living for the sake of his children)
- foreign to (The culture was foreign to him but he adapted quickly and well)
- full of something (His heart was full of love for his child)
- grateful to someone for something (I am very grateful to you for the time you spent showing me around your city)
- guard against something (When everyone is sick around you, it is important to guard against their germs)
- guess at something (In Canada, it is very difficult to guess at the weather because it is changing constantly)
- hear about something (I heard about her sickness from a friend)
- hint at something (He hinted at his unhappiness but would not talk about it directly)
- horrified at something (His mother was horrified at his bad manners)
- identical with (not identical to) (The twin sisters were identical with each other)
- in case of (you should leave your phone number with me in case of an emergency)
- in common with (I think we have more in common with each other than we first thought)
- in the course of (You are bound to make some friends in the course of your travels)
- independent of someone or something (Every child must eventually grow up to become independent of his or her parents)
- in favor of (We are all in favor of working fewer days)
- inferior or superior to (No one should feel inferior or superior to other people)
- influence over someone (Rasputin was said to have too much influence over Alexandria)
- inform someone of something (We have to inform the students of the exam)
- in place of (We can't afford a sit-down dinner, so in place of it, we are offering a light buffet)
- inquire into something (I need to inquire into the menus available for the dinner)
- in search of (She is in search of a good husband)
- In spite of (He finished the assignment in spite of being exhausted)
- intent on something (She was intent on passing her course, so she studied hard daily.)
- interfere with someone or something (Her headache interfered with his plans for them to see a movie together)
- introduce someone to something (She was a little frightened to introduce him to her parents)

- irrelevant to something (Your point is irrelevant to our debate of the issue)
- knock at or on a door (On Halloween, many little “monsters” knock at our door)
- laugh at something or someone (It is really rude to laugh at anyone)
- lecture on or about something (Dr. Smith will lecture this morning on global warming)
- listen to someone or something (It will be worthwhile to listen to him speak)
- look at someone or something (It is nice to sit in the park and look at the people walking by)
- look for something or someone (I have been looking for my keys all morning)
- look up something in a reference book (I had to look up the word I did not understand)
- made of something (The cake was made of flour and sugar)
- make something for someone (The little boy made a present for his mother because it was her birthday)
- mistaken for someone (Annette was mistaken for Brandy because they both had red hair)
- need for something (Everyone has a need for love)
- obligation to someone (I have an obligation to my mother to respect and support her in her old age)
- on account of (She could not walk far on account of her leg injury)
- opportunity for someone or something (The new job is a good opportunity for one lucky person)
- opposition to someone (Teenagers sometimes act in opposition to their parents’ wishes)
- part from (take leave of) (We all felt sorry to part from our friends after their visit)
- part with (relinquish) (I regretted parting with my books, but it was necessary)
- pay someone for something (He had to pay \$15 for the shirt)
- pity for someone (We should only have pity for someone if we love them, not if we feel superior)
- plan or planning to (not planning on) (I am not planning on going out tonight; I just plan to stay home and read)
- point at someone or something (In almost all cultures, it is considered rude to point at someone)
- popular with someone (Movie stars are usually popular with teenagers and young adults)
- prefer something to something (I prefer yogurt to ice cream)
- prejudice against someone or something (Some people reveal prejudice against the elderly)
- profit by (We can all profit by reading)
- protect someone from something (We all try to protect our children from harm)
- provide something for someone (Mothers want to provide safety for their children)
- punish someone for something (He punished the dog for chewing on the rug)
- qualifications for a job (Education is not the qualifications necessary for the job)

- qualified to do something (He drove a taxi because he was not qualified to do anything else)
- quarrel with someone over something (It is never worthwhile to quarrel with friends over politics)
- quote something from someone (He spoke with emotion, quoting poetry from Shakespeare as he spoke)
- reason with someone about something (When people get angry, it is often difficult to reason with them about the issue and help them calm down)
- reason for something (Some people believe that nothing happens by chance; they think that there is a reason for everything)
- recover from an illness (Sometimes it takes a long time to recover from a serious illness)
- in regard to (I need to talk to you in regard to your plans)
- with regard to (I need to talk to you with regard to your plans)
- as regards (I need to talk to you as regards your plans)
- related to someone (I was happy to know that I was related to such nice people)
- rely on someone or something (I am glad my children can rely on each other now)
- remind someone of something (I appreciate you reminding me about my appointment)
- reply to someone about something (email is an efficient way to reply to someone about any business concerns)
- require something of someone (He required complete obedience of his followers)
- research in something (We should always be excited to research in areas which interest us)
- responsible to someone for something (The manager was responsible to the shareholders for the profitable operations of the business)
- result from a cause (The broken tree resulted from a huge storm last night)
- result of a cause (The result of the storm was a broken tree in our yard)
- retroactive to (We received a small salary increase retroactive to last January)
- rob someone of something (The men decided to rob the rich man of his gold)
- satisfactory to someone (Her work was satisfactory to her boss)
- search for something (Every morning, I find myself searching for my keys)
- send for something (I sent for a jacket which I saw in the catalog)
- shocked at something (The international students were shocked at how much the Canadian students drank on the weekend)
- similar to someone or something (The sisters were very similar to each other)
- smile at someone (I like to smile at people I pass by while walking)
- speak to (tell something to someone)
- speak with (discuss with)
- stare at someone (In most cultures, it is considered rude to stare at someone)
- start with something (When you start with some vegetables and meat, you can make a good stew)

- supply someone with something (Can you supply my friend with a bottle of your new cleaner?)
- sure of something (It is important to be sure of your feelings before you propose)
- sympathy with or for someone or something (I have sympathy with your position; in fact, I have a lot of sympathy for you, but, unfortunately, we cannot change the rules)
- take advantage of someone or something (It is not a moral act to take advantage of someone at any time, but especially when they are weakened or suffering)
- take care of someone or something (Every mother wants to take care of her child)
- to talk over something with someone (Instead of fighting, you should talk over your problems with your partner)
- talk to someone about something (I have to talk to you about a problem in our office)
- tell someone of or about something (I have to tell you about a problem in our office)
- thankful for something (I am thankful for my children)
- think of or about or over something (I will have to think about (over) your proposal for a few days. I need to think of a solution.)
- threaten someone with something (He threatened her with divorce)
- tired of something (I am tired of your nagging)
- trust in something or someone (He really trusted in her, but she betrayed him)
- trust someone with something (Alice trusted Barbara with her secret)
- wait for someone or something (She had no car so she had to wait for the bus)
- wait on a customer, a guest (Sarah was happy to wait on the customers in her store)
- weary of something (She was weary of the grey, rainy weather)
- work for or on behalf of someone or something (The lawyer worked on behalf of his client for nothing)
- worry about something (I am worried about my daughter's health)