Adjectives plus prepositions

Read the article. Do you think the son was addicted to playing video games? Find evidence for your opinion.

According to a Chinese blog, a man has hired gamers to find his son in an online game and kill his character.

The man was unhappy with his son for not finding a job and was also worried about the amount of time the 23-year-old spent playing games online. So he found some other gamers who were particularly good at online combat games and paid them to kill his son's character. His son became aware of the situation when people kept attacking him. He was so curious about it that he asked one of his attackers to explain. Apparently, the son was shocked at the answer, but he was not particularly angry with his father. After all, people who play online combat games are used to being killed!

We are probably all familiar with stories of video game addiction. However, many experts are not sure that it is a real condition. They point out that spending a lot of time doing something is not the same as being addicted to it. It only becomes an addiction when it is harmful to family life, friendships or work.

LEARN THIS! Adjective + preposition

Many adjectives are followed by certain prepositions: *in, at, of, with,* etc.

to be obsessed with / successful in / sensitive to something

You need to learn these adjective + preposition combinations as they do not follow any rules. A good dictionary will tell you which preposition to use with which adjective.

Read the Learn this! box. Then underline these adjectives in the text in exercise 2. Which prepositions follow them?

addicted angry aware curious familiar
good harmful shocked unhappy worried

LOOK OUT!

Some adjectives can be followed by more than one preposition with no difference in use or meaning.

to be annoyed at / with somebody or something

But with some adjectives, the preposition changes depending on the type or meaning of the word which follows.

to be unhappy with somebody / about something

similar /ˈsɪmələ(r)/ *adj* **similar (to sth/sb); similar (in sth)** like sth/sb but not exactly the same: *My phone is similar to my brother's.* • *Our houses are very similar in size.*

5 Circle the correct prepositions to go with these adjectives. Use a dictionary to help you.

1 dissatisfied **in / with**
2 responsible **for / in**
3 obsessed **of / with**
4 sensitive **for / to**
5 pleased **to / with**
6 successful **in / to**

6 USE OF ENGLISH Complete the text with the correct prepositions. All of the adjectives are in exercises 2–5.



selfie (n): a picture taken of a person by that person

A teenager in the UK, Danny Bowman, became addicted [1]_____ 'selfies' and spent up to ten hours a day taking around 200 photos of himself with his phone. This was a true case of addiction: it was harmful [2]_____ his education and his friendships and responsible [3]_____ several health problems. Experts are aware [4]_____ the condition and say it is becoming more and more common. Danny first posted selfies on Facebook when he was fifteen and soon became obsessed [5]_____ reading his friends' comments. Although he was pleased [6]_____ many of the things his friends wrote, he was also very sensitive [7]_____ criticism. Before long, he was feeling very dissatisfied [8]_____ his appearance. He took more and more photos of himself. His parents became very worried [9]_____ his behaviour. Because they were both mental health nurses, they were familiar [10]_____ addictions. They knew that Danny needed help. Now, after months of hospital treatment, Danny has been successful [11]_____ beating his addiction. But it's a growing problem, with many other cases similar [12]_____ Danny's.

7 SPEAKING Work in pairs. Tell your partner about something that you are (or have been):

1 successful in.
2 excited about.
3 satisfied with.
4 curious about.
5 pleased with.
6 good at.
7 angry about.
8 keen on.

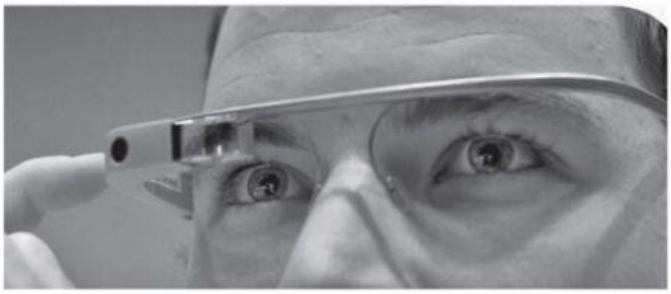
I was really successful in my recent music exam.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Circle the correct prepositions.

1 His eyes are very sensitive **at** / **to** bright lights.
2 Are you excited **about** / **for** your holiday?
3 She wasn't very pleased **in** / **with** her present.
4 Don't worry, nobody is angry **about** / **with** you.
5 I want 90%, but I'd be satisfied **for** / **with** 75%.
6 Who is responsible **about** / **for** all this mess?
7 I'm not familiar **to** / **with** this part of town, so it's easy to get lost.
8 If you were dissatisfied **from** / **with** your hotel room, you should have complained.

Complete the text with *about, at, in, of, on, to,* or *with*.



Scientists have been aware [1]_____ technology addictions for many years, but now there is a new kind: recently a man needed treatment after becoming addicted [2]_____ Google Glass.

The 31-year-old American man visited a clinic in the USA because he was worried [3]_____ an alcohol addiction. He had to take off his Google Glass when he arrived – and doctors were shocked [4]_____ his reaction. He suffered withdrawal symptoms which were very similar [5]_____ drug or alcohol withdrawal.
Originally, the man had become keen [6]_____ Google Glass because it helped him to become better [7]_____ his job. He gradually became more and more obsessed [8]_____ the device. However, he also began to feel unhappy [9]_____ the effect that it was having on his mood: he became bad-tempered and forgetful when he was not wearing it. The device was helping him to be successful [10]_____ his job, but it was harmful [11]_____ the rest of his life.

At first, the doctors at the clinic were curious [12]_____ one symptom: the man kept tapping the right side of his head with his finger. The man later explained that this was how you changed the view on Google Glass.

Circle the correct words to complete both sentences in each pair.

1 a Log ___ to the website and go to 'my account'.
b Which button should I click ___ ?
A at B in C on D with

2 a I don't get as ___ emails as you do.
b There aren't ___ Wi-Fi hotspots near here.
A many B most C much D any

3 a I'm usually very busy, so I spend ___ time playing computer games.
b There's ___ information on this website; it isn't very useful.
A few B a few C a little D little

4 a He didn't answer his phone. He ___ not have heard it.
b Let's call later, they ___ be having dinner now.
A could B might C must D can

5 a My phone battery ___ have run out yet. I've only just charged it!
b Matt's games console ___ be working. He's reading a book!
A can't B may C could D must

6 a Old technical gadgets can be harmful ___ the environment.
b My MP3 player is similar ___ my sister's. The only difference is the colour.
A with B of C as D to

7 a My friend is annoyed ___ me about the comment I posted on her wall.
b How many people do you know who are obsessed ___ online games?
A about B in C with D at

LIVEWORKSHEETS