124 Noun + preposition (trouble with)

1 Introduction

Read this true story about a prison escape.

> Prisoners at a jail in Iowa in the US were trying to think of a **way of** escaping. At last they found an **answer to** their problem. They told the governor about their **interest in** drama and their **need for** creative activities. They put in a **request for** some tunnel-digging equipment for a play about coalminers. They knew that the governor felt **sympathy for** his prisoners and wanted a good **relationship with** them, but they weren't surprised when he said no. But later, when the prisoners mentioned the **importance of** physical fitness, the governor agreed to let them use a trampoline. Their **skill at** trampolining was put to good use when six prisoners bounced over the prison wall and escaped.

Some nouns can have a preposition after them, e.g. **way of, answer to, interest in.**
The preposition often has a phrase with a noun after it.
*the answer **to the problem*** *their interest **in drama***
And the preposition can sometimes have an -ing form after it.
*a way **of escaping*** *their skill **at trampolining***

2 Noun + preposition

Here are some more examples.

*your **ability in** maths*
*a cheap **alternative to** leather*
*an **attack on** the government*
*my **attitude to/towards** him*
*a **belief in** God*
*the **cause of** the accident*
*the **cost of** living*
*some **damage to** the car*
*a **difficulty over/with** visas*
*an **example of** this*
*some **experience of** selling*
*an **expert on** computers*
*no **hope of** winning*
*an **invitation to** a party*
*some **knowledge of** Italian*
*a **lack of** money*
*something the **matter with** you*
*a new **method of** storing data*
*your **opinion of** the film*
*the **price of** food*
*the **reason for** the delay*
***respect for** the environment*
*a **student of** chemistry*
*a **substitute for** meat*
***success at** golf/**in** my search*
*a **tax on** alcohol*
*having **trouble with** my teeth*

3 Connection, difference; increase, reduction, etc.

One thing has a link with another.
*a **connection with** another crime*
*Matthew's **relationship with** Emma*
*the **contrast with** yesterday's weather*

There is a link between two things.
*a **connection between** the two crimes*
*the **relationship between** Matthew and Emma*
*the **contrast/difference between** town and country*

Look at these words for increases and decreases. We use **in** before the thing that is increasing or decreasing and **of** before the amount of the increase or decrease.

*an **increase/rise in** the price*
*a **reduction/fall in** the number of unemployed*
*an **increase/rise of** £10*
*a **reduction/fall of** 3%*

4 Need, wish, etc.

Nouns meaning 'need', 'wish' or 'request' can have **for** after them.
*There's a **need for** more houses.* *There was no **demand for** the product.*
Here are some examples: **appetite for, application for, demand for, desire for, need for, order for, preference for, request for, taste for, wish for**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Practice

A Noun + preposition (1–2)

Complete the conversation. Put in *at*, *in* or *of*.

Daniel: What's the job you've applied for?

Vicky: It's with a travel company. But the advert says that you need some experience (▶) ...of... work in tourism. I haven't got that. And I don't think my knowledge (1) ..... foreign languages will be good enough. I'm having no success at all (2) ..... my attempts to get a job.

Daniel: What about your interest (3) ..... computers? And your skill (4) ..... typing? That's the sort of thing employers are looking for.

B Noun + preposition (1–2)

Complete the sentences. Use a preposition after these nouns:
answer*, *cause*, *damage*, *difficulty*, *invitation*, *matter*, *tax*, *way

▶ I've had an ...invitation to... Laura's barbecue.

1 The accident caused some ..... the car.

2 I'm trying to think of the best ..... getting this piano upstairs.

3 I can't think of an ..... the problem, I'm afraid.

4 The ..... the accident is still unknown.

5 The government has introduced a new ..... luxury goods.

6 Unfortunately there was some ..... the arrangements.

7 The television won't come on. What's the ..... it?

C Noun + preposition (2–3)

Complete the advertisement for a supermarket. Put in *between*, *for*, *in*, *of* or *with*.

Why not shop at Greenway Supermarket? You'll find the cost (▶) ...of... your weekly shopping is much lower. There's quite a contrast (1) ..... other stores. Here's one example (2) ..... this: from today many of our products have a price reduction (3) ..... five per cent! But this is not the only reason (4) ..... Greenway's success. We're proud of our good relationship (5) ..... our customers. We believe there is simply no substitute (6) ..... quality. And there is no lack (7) ..... choice at Greenway. That's the difference (8) ..... Greenway and ordinary stores.

D Noun + preposition (1–4)

What are they saying? Read about each situation and complete the sentence.

▶ A motorist has rung the garage and requested a breakdown truck.
Mechanic: I've just had a ...request for a breakdown truck.....

1 Claude can answer all the quiz questions.
Claude: I can tell you the .....

2 Matthew doesn't know any French.
Matthew: Unfortunately I have no .....

3 The Prime Minister greatly desires progress.
Prime Minister: I have a great .....

4 Vicky thinks the two colours are the same.
Vicky: I can't see any .....

5 Most people say they prefer Zedco products.
Zedco: Most people express a .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS