Strategies and skills

Phrases with prepositions

The correct choice for a gap often depends on matching the correct option with the preposition after the gap.

1a Read the sentences and look at the highlighted prepositions. Choose the word that is followed by each preposition and fits the context.

1 I'm very **interested / curious / keen / attracted in** music.
2 I wasn't sure how to **arrive / find / reach / get to** the restaurant.
3 I'm not **informed / interested / familiar / knowledgeable with** his books.
4 James is still **mending / recovering / improving / gaining from** his operation.
5 I felt very **pleased / satisfied / proud / content of** myself.
6 It wasn't clear whether she **approved / liked / agreed / accepted of** what we had done.
7 The wet weather had a very damaging **result / solution / effect / end on** tourism.
8 I hadn't **recognised / noticed / realised / heard of** this artist before.

1b What prepositions are the other words followed by? Which words are not usually followed by a preposition?

Prepositions are also used before nouns, in fixed phrases or collocations. It is important to learn and recognise these. Sometimes the preposition may be the gap.

2 Look at the prepositions and nouns (A-D) carefully. Then choose the ones which form fixed phrases or collocations to complete the sentences.

1 It was really exciting to finally meet her in _____.
A end B life C person D face

2 She was a doctor by _____.
A job B profession C work D employment

3 We soon found that we had a lot _____ common.
A as B for C between D in

4 _____ my surprise, they offered me the job as a photographer.
A For B In C To D Against

5 The police soon arrived on the _____.
A location B place C situation D scene

6 He could play the whole piece of music by _____.
A memory B mind C heart D feeling

SPEAKING BOOST

Discuss or answer.

1 Describe your perfect home.
2 What are the challenges when you move to a new home/ location?

Phrasal verbs

Some questions test your knowledge of phrasal verbs. Sometimes the whole phrasal verb is missing, or sometimes just the verb or the particle.

TIP: Make sure you learn as many phrasal verbs as you can. It's important to remember which need an object, which can be separated and which have three rather than two parts.

3 Choose the correct words or phrases to complete the sentences.

1 The book was popular and quickly sold **in / off / out / after.**
2 There were fears that robots would **take / give / get / make** over our lives.
3 Other members of the group **made up for / got through to / went over to / came up with** some good ideas.
4 I decided to **take / get / make / put** up his offer of a job with the company.
5 I hoped I might pick **off / up / out / over** some useful tips.
6 I always **shut down / put off / take off / shut up** my computer before I go home from work.

4 Choose the correct verb (A-D) to complete the sentences.

1 We've decided to _____ ahead with our plans for a new office.
A take B go C put D bring

2 They've _____ the meeting off until next week.
A got B stopped C put D taken

3 Food prices have _____ up a lot recently.
A changed B got C taken D gone

4 Do you think we should _____ together for a meeting?
A get B bring C take D make

5 All the lights suddenly _____ off.
A moved B got C put D went

6 I was ill last week, so I _____ a bit behind with my work.
A went B came C got D turned

7 We don't like the temporary office location but we will have to _____ up with it until June.
A live B put C take D turn

8 Everyone says I _____ after my father because we look alike and both love jazz.
A look B go C take D do

LIVEWORKSHEETS