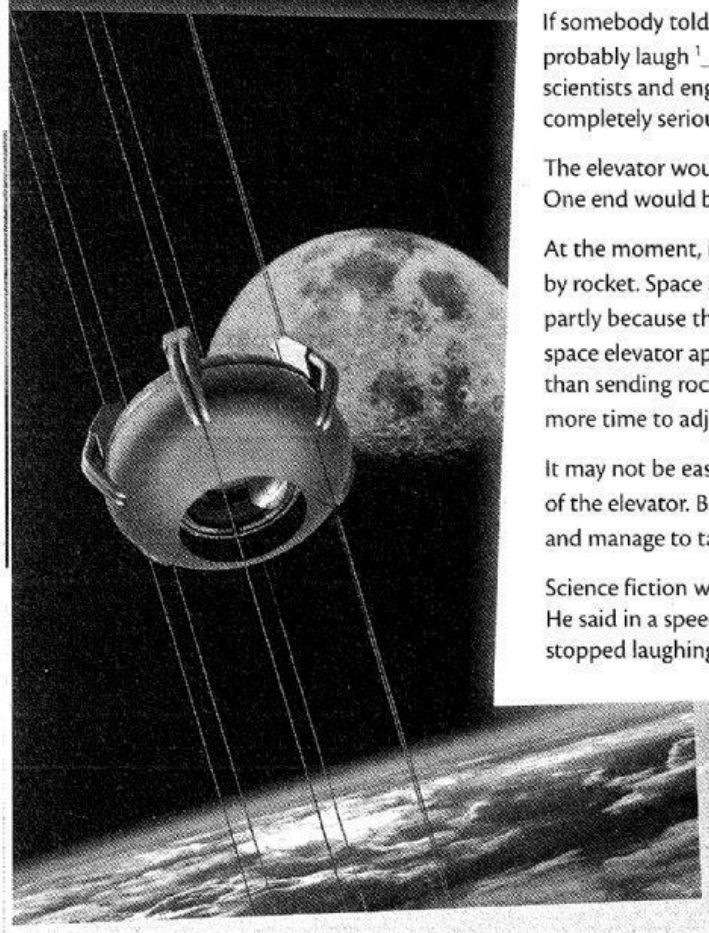
9E Word skills

Verb + preposition

I can understand and use verb + preposition collocations.



If somebody told you they were building a lift to take people into space, you would probably laugh [1]_____ the idea. But in fact, if you listen [2]_____ scientists and engineers talking about the plan, you soon realise they are being completely serious.

The elevator would consist [3]_____ a carbon fibre ribbon 100,000 km long. One end would be in the ocean at the equator, and the other end would be in space.

At the moment, it takes months or years to prepare [4]_____ a trip into space by rocket. Space agencies have begun searching [5]_____ a better option – partly because they worry [6]_____ the cost of space missions. The idea of a space elevator appeals [7]_____ governments because it would be far cheaper than sending rockets into space. It would be slower, but that would give passengers more time to adjust [8]_____ the different conditions as they left the earth.

It may not be easy though: countries might argue [9]_____ the exact location of the elevator. But if the political leaders can cope [10]_____ these problems and manage to take part [11]_____ the project together, it is certainly possible.

Science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke wrote a novel [12]_____ the idea in 1979. He said in a speech that humans would build a space elevator ten years after they stopped laughing at the idea. Well, they've stopped laughing now.

charge / tʃɑːdʒ / *verb* **1** [T, I] **charge (sb/sth) for sth** to ask sb to pay a particular amount of money: *We charge £75 a night for a single room* ◆ *They forgot to charge us for the drinks* **2** [T, I] **charge sb (with sth)** to accuse sb officially of doing sth which is against the law: *Three men have been charged with robbery*

inform / ɪnˈfɔːm / *verb* [T] **inform sb (of/about sth)** to give sb information (about sth), especially in an official way: *You should inform the police of the accident* ◆ *Do* ***keep*** *me* ***informed*** *of any changes*

1 Complete the text with these prepositions: *about, at, for, in, of, to, with*. You will have to use some prepositions more than once.

2 Circle the correct prepositions to complete the sentences.

1 You should apologise **for / to** that comment!
2 Cats get frightened if you shout **at / to** them.
3 I asked **about / for** the manager so I could talk to him in person.
4 We complained **for / about** our hotel room.
5 I've never heard **about / of** this video game.
6 I dreamed **about / of** flying again last night.
7 After a long discussion, they agreed **to / with** our request and gave us our money back.
8 If you're unhappy with the service, why don't you write **about / to** the manager?

3 Study the dictionary entries and answer the questions.

1 Which verb can have two prepositions with no change of meaning? _____
2 Which verb can have two prepositions, but the meaning changes? _____
3 Which entry uses ***bold and italic*** type for two words that often go together? _____

VOCAB BOOST!

Dictionaries often use *something* or *somebody* (*sth* or *sb*) in their definitions, but when you record verbs it is a good idea to include words which often go with those verbs.

to complain about sth / sb → *to complain about the weather / the noise / your hotel / your neighbours / your doctor*

4 Read the *Vocab boost!* box. Write some words that often go with these verbs.

1 to care for sth / sb → to care for _____
2 to learn about sth → to learn about _____
3 to write to sb → to write to _____