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The preposition of

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Our standard of living is much better than in the past.
b Our standard for living is much better than in the past.
- 2 a Write a letter complaint to the manager.
b Write a letter of complaint to the manager.

The preposition *of* is used in some common expressions: *cost of living*, *letter of apology/complaint*, etc., *period of time*, *quality of life*, *standard of living*.
*My father is always complaining about the high **cost of living** nowadays.*

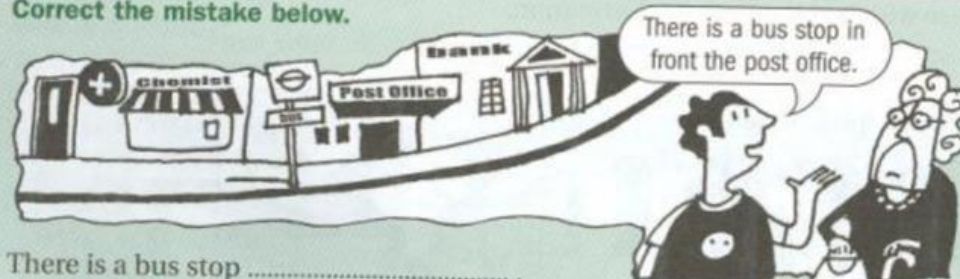
Of is also used after some nouns: *government*, *group*, *importance*, *lack*, *leader*, *type*.
*People often underestimate the **importance of** friends and family.*

Of is used to talk about quantities with some words: *amount*, *number*, *a lot*, *lots*, *plenty*.
*The government is hoping to persuade a large **number of** people to walk to work.*

Of is used in some prepositions: *in front of*, *instead of*.
*I decided to take the bus **instead of** the train.*

Also after *because* and *as a result* when they are followed by a noun or gerund:
*My cousin couldn't swim with us **because of** his bad leg. (not ~~because his bad leg~~)*
*Our football team was demoted **as a result of** the weather being bad. (not ~~as a result the weather was bad~~)*

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Correct the mistakes in the following sentences. There may be more than one mistake in some sentences.

- 1 It is difficult for very old people to have a good quality for life.
- 2 The lakes remained empty for a long period time during the drought.
- 3 I missed out on a good job promotion as a result my illness.
- 4 The government for my country tries to consult everyone about important issues.
- 5 I wrote a letter complaint to the airline because they lost my luggage.
- 6 There are a large number different types cars on our roads nowadays.
- 7 The leader for the opposition was very angry with the result at the election.
- 8 We ate at home instead to go to a restaurant because we couldn't decide what type food we wanted.