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Using prepositions: after verbs

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Companies in the US spend more money on research and development.
b Companies in the US spend more money for research and development.
- 2 a We have to provide doctors with the resources they need to do their job.
b We have to provide doctors the resources they need to do their job.

There are a number of common verb + object + preposition combinations in English. You can check the patterns used with a particular verb in a good learner's dictionary:

- *spend + time/money + on something*

*The average person **spends** £100 a month **on** transport.*

Also: *Expenditure on/Spending on education has risen.*

- *invest + money + in something*

*It's up to local government to **invest** money **in** improved leisure facilities.*

Also: *The protesters want more state **investment in** agriculture.*

- *provide + something + for someone*

*The project will **provide** employment **for** young artists and performers.*

Also: *There has been progress in **the provision of** facilities **for** the disabled.*

- *provide + someone + with something*

*We aim to **provide** the children **with** an opportunity to experience a different culture.*

- *help + someone + (out) + with something*

*She visits twice a week to **help** her grandmother **out with** the housework.*

Also: *Some students need extra **help with** reading and writing.*

2 Correct the mistake below.



On average, how much
do you spend a month
for hair products?

On average, how much?

3 There is one incorrect or missing preposition in each sentence below. Make any changes or additions necessary to correct the sentences.

- 1 Some companies spend huge sums in advertising.
- 2 The new labels provide customers better information about ingredients.
- 3 I have a problem I think you can help me.
- 4 The party promised to increase investment for education.
- 5 We are pressing for the provision more special lanes for cyclists.
- 6 There are no facilities provided to passengers with young children.
- 7 Spending for photographic film has dropped dramatically.
- 8 There's a porter in reception to help guests their bags.