11 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 .....?

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS