

# 40 Prepositional phrases

## A All about you

### LET'S FIND OUT ABOUT YOU!

- Do you ever argue with people **in public**?
- Do you believe that couples should stay together **for life**?
- What do you do **on a regular basis** that helps you with stress?
- What's the best way to help people who are living **on the streets**?
- Would you work **for free** for a charity you believe in?
- Do you think things have got better in your country **in recent years**?
- Do you think that people will stop using plastic **over time**?
- Do you think young people are **at risk from** social media?
- **In general**, do you think you are a happy person?

### GLOSSARY

<b>in public</b>	when other people are there <b>OPP in private</b>
<b>for life</b>	till the end of your life
<b>on a regular basis</b>	having the same space or time between each thing and the next
<b>on the street(s) inf</b>	without a home; living outside
<b>for free</b>	without payment
<b>in recent years, months, etc.</b>	that happened or began not many years, months, etc. ago
<b>over time</b>	as time passes
<b>at risk (from sth)</b>	in a situation where something unpleasant or dangerous could happen <b>SYN in danger (of sth)</b>
<b>in general</b>	usually; most of the time <b>SYN on the whole</b>

### 1 Same or different? Write S or D.

- ▶ Those men are on the streets. / Those men are working on the streets. D
- 1 She did the work for free. / She wasn't paid for the work. ....
- 2 In general, I liked it. / On the whole, I liked it. ....
- 3 I don't do it in public. / I don't do it in private. ....
- 4 The children are at risk. / The children are in danger. ....
- 5 I haven't seen Rob in recent years. / I haven't seen Rob for a very long time. ....
- 6 I'm busy at the moment. / I'm busy in general. ....
- 7 I go to the gym on a regular basis. / I go to the gym when I want to. ....
- 8 People change their minds over time. / People change their minds as time passes. ....

### 2 Complete the phrases with the correct preposition(s).

- ▶ In general, women earn less than men.
- 1 The injury affected him ..... life.
- 2 ..... the whole, I didn't like the film.
- 3 Jack's hair has gone white ..... time.
- 4 Are the boys ..... risk ..... this illness?
- 5 Things have changed a lot ..... recent years.
- 6 The children could be ..... danger.
- 7 I asked to see her ..... private.
- 8 Do you take exercise ..... a regular basis?
- 9 You have to pay: nothing is ..... free.

### 3 Complete the sentences with a prepositional phrase.

- ▶ What politicians say in public is often different from what they believe in private.
- 1 ..... I get up later at the weekend than during the week.
- 2 Nobody has a job ..... these days. You might have many jobs over the years.
- 3 Parents have to pay for the show, but children can go in ..... Aren't they lucky?
- 4 Young people can put themselves ..... if they go out alone late at night.
- 5 You see a lot of people living ..... They have nothing and nobody. It's terrible.
- 6 The problem with being famous is that you are always recognized .....
- 7 ..... , permanent work is better paid than temporary work.
- 8 ..... , people have become much more worried about global warming.

### 4 ABOUT YOU Write answers to the questions at the top of the page, or talk to another student.



### TEST YOURSELF



## B in, at, on, by

Is there anything **in particular** you want to do this evening? (= especially)  
 I didn't know it was your coat – I took it **by mistake**. (= I didn't plan to take it.)  
 There were **at least** 20 people there. (= not less than 20)  
 I met Dan **on the way** to school. (= on the road/journey)  
 I couldn't move: Mo's car was **in the way**. (= in front of me so I couldn't move)  
 I suppose, **on average**, we go abroad two or three times a year. (= normally; in most years, etc.)  
 I'm afraid there's no coffee. ~ OK, **in that case**, I'll have tea. (= if that is the situation)  
**At the end of** the film, the couple move to Los Angeles. (= in the final part of something)  
 The clubs were closed, so **in the end** we went home early. (= finally, after some time)  
 He wanted to know about the meeting **in detail**. (= with all the information I had)  
 We met Marisa **by chance** when we were in Munich. (= without planning to)  
 Why **on earth** do you want to go out in this terrible weather? (= you must be crazy!)

### SPOTLIGHT *on earth*

**On earth** *inf* is used in questions when you are very surprised or want to say something very strongly.

- What **on earth** are they doing?
- Where **on earth** is Milla?
- How **on earth** did you do that?
- Who **on earth** made this jumper?

### 5 Make eight more phrases using *in, at, by* or *on*.

way ✓ detail	chance average	earth particular	mistake that case	least
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- in the way .....
- .....
- .....

### 6 Replace the underlined words with a prepositional phrase that has the same meaning.

- The weather was awful all day, so finally we decided to go home. in the end
- 1 We'll need not less than two hours to get there. ....
- 2 There isn't anything especially that you don't eat, is there? ....
- 3 She saw Damian without planning to when she was at the supermarket. ....
- 4 In the final part of the story, the old woman dies. ....
- 5 We couldn't get out of the bus because there were people standing in front of us. ....
- 6 Normally, how long does it take you to get to work? ....
- 7 I can get some milk when I'm going to work. ....

### 7 Where would you put these phrases in the sentences and dialogues below?

in detail by mistake	in particular ✓ in that case	on earth by chance	in the end
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- If I go to the pharmacy, is there anything / that you want? in particular
- 1 A taxi will be very expensive. ~ OK, let's take the bus. ....
- 2 I picked up Ben's scarf because it looked very similar to mine. ....
- 3 We met Maxine when we were on holiday in Rome. It was a strange coincidence. ....
- 4 What is that man doing with a box over his head? ....
- 5 We spent ages waiting for the box office to open, and we went home. ....
- 6 My parents want to know about the party. I hope you can remember what happened! ....



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