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

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

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 ✓	chance	earth	mistake	least
detail	average	particular	that case	

▶ in the way ....
....
....

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

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

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

in detail	in particular ✓	on earth	in the end
by mistake	in that case	by chance	

▶ 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! .....

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS