

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.



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

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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 | 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