98 Prepositional phrases

A Phrases with *at, in, on* and *by*

I wrote out the paragraph **in full**.
Really? You didn't do that **by choice**, did you?
Certainly not. I was made to do it.

I can normally get theatre work **on the basis of** my experience, but **at present** there's absolutely nothing, so I've been helping out behind the bar at my local pub. I'm hoping something will come up **in the near future**, but it's **by no means** certain.

Do you have to travel **at short notice**?
Yes, I get a call and have to leave **at once**.

You didn't ignore Suki **on purpose**, did you?
No, Suki and I are **on good terms**, but I just didn't see her.

GLOSSARY

in full	including the whole of sth
by choice	because you have chosen (to do sth)
on the basis of sth	because of sth
at present	now; at the moment
in the near future	soon
by no means	not at all
at short notice	with very little warning ALSO **at a moment's notice**
at once	immediately SYN **right away, straight away**
on purpose	not by accident; deliberately
on good/friendly/bad, etc. terms (with sb)	have a good/friendly/bad, etc. relationship (with sb)

1 Circle the correct word.

1 He came *in / at* a moment's notice.
2 I'm sure she did it *by / on* purpose.
3 She's busy *at / in* present.
4 I completed the application *in / by* full.
5 I got the job *on / in* the basis of my qualifications.
6 We have to leave right *way / away*.
7 They're not *on / in* friendly terms.
8 The solution is *at / by* no means clear.

2 Replace the underlined words with a prepositional phrase. Keep the same meaning.

1 We can give you an appointment <u>with very little warning</u>. .....
2 The doctor is very busy <u>right now</u>, but he'll ring you later. .....
3 They gave me the job <u>because</u> of my qualifications. .....
4 The papers think that Ellis will win the election, but it is <u>not at all</u> certain. .....
5 Call the emergency services <u>immediately</u> if you think you are in danger. .....
6 It is believed that the fire was started <u>deliberately</u> in order to claim insurance. .....
7 Louise is moving to the countryside <u>because she wants to</u>, not because she has to. .....
8 Are the brothers <u>getting on well</u> these days, or are they still arguing? .....

3 Complete the sentences with a suitable prepositional phrase.

1 I drive to work, but I'd never do it _____ if I could avoid it.
2 When it is ready, take the pie out of the oven and serve it _____ .
3 I may need more teachers soon, but _____ we're OK.
4 We haven't made a profit yet, but we're hoping to do so _____ .
5 I left the money on the table _____ to see if Kia would steal it, but she didn't.
6 Luke and Dan aren't speaking to each other. I don't know why they're _____ with each other.
7 It may be difficult to find someone to do the job _____ , but we'll try.
8 You can't just put your initials. You have to write your name _____ .
9 I finally managed to calm them down, but it was _____ easy.
10 The products were all very similar so I just chose one _____ price.

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B Phrases in headlines

Government **out of touch with** public mood

Tunnel named **in honour of** football coach

Mystery illness **on board giant** cruise ship

Gene therapy trial on hold

COUPLE FOUND **IN POSSESSION OF** COCAINE

COMPANY **UNDER INVESTIGATION** FOR USING WORKERS AS **SLAVE LABOUR**

TRAFFIC FLOW IMPROVED **BY MEANS OF** BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Unions work hard to keep government **in office**

Film release delayed **out of respect for bereaved** family

GLOSSARY

out of touch (with sth)	no longer having recent knowledge or information about sth
tunnel	a passage built underground, e.g. to allow a road or railway to pass through
in honour of sb/sth	in order to show respect and admiration for sb/sth
on board	on or in a ship, an aircraft or a train
giant	very large **giant** *n* a very large and powerful organization
on hold	delayed until a later time or date
in possession of sth *formal*	having or holding sth
slave labour	work that is done by slaves. A **slave** is a person who is owned by another person and forced to work for them: ***treat sb like a slave***
by means of sth *formal*	with the help of sth
in office	in a position of authority, especially in government ALSO **in power**
out of respect (for sb)	done because you care for sb/sth or think they are important
bereaved	If sb is **bereaved**, a close friend or relative has recently died.

SPOTLIGHT *under*

Under can mean 'in the process of something'.
under investigation in the process of being investigated
Other examples are:
under discussion **under construction** **under attack**

4 **Combine the prepositions on the left with the nouns on the right to form eight phrases. You can use some of the prepositions more than once.**

in	under		hold	investigation	respect	possession of
by	on	out of		office	attack	touch	means of

....
....

5 **Circle the words which are possible.**

1 The government has been ***in power / on board / in office*** for five years.
2 Following the accusations of slave labour, several men are now ***under investigation / under construction / on hold***.
3 The suspect was found ***in honour of / in possession of / by means of*** stolen goods.
4 I attended the ceremony ***in honour of / out of respect for / out of touch with*** those who died.
5 She is ***out touch with / in possession of / under attack*** the feelings of the general public.
6 The bridge is ***under attack / under discussion / under construction***.

6 **Complete the sentences.**

1 We have had to put our holiday plans on ..... for the moment because of work.
2 Hundreds came to the funeral out of ..... for the ..... family.
3 I can't help as I'm really out of ..... with this area of research nowadays.
4 If you are caught in ..... of drugs, you will be in trouble.
5 The mile-long ..... running under Solsbury Hill has been under ..... for years and is still not finished.
6 He works for a ..... multinational company, with offices in 12 countries.
7 She opened the can by ..... of a special device designed for the disabled.
8 The servants are treated like ..... in that house. It's shocking.
9 The aircraft can take off when everyone is on ..... .
10 The statue is in ..... of Ada Lovelace, who was the first computer programmer.

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