

# 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

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

### 1 Circle the correct word.

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

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

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

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

- I drive to work, but I'd never do it \_\_\_\_\_ if I could avoid it.
- When it is ready, take the pie out of the oven and serve it \_\_\_\_\_.
- I may need more teachers soon, but \_\_\_\_\_ we're OK.
- We haven't made a profit yet, but we're hoping to do so \_\_\_\_\_.
- I left the money on the table \_\_\_\_\_ to see if Kia would steal it, but she didn't.
- Luke and Dan aren't speaking to each other. I don't know why they're \_\_\_\_\_ with each other.
- It may be difficult to find someone to do the job \_\_\_\_\_, but we'll try.
- You can't just put your initials. You have to write your name \_\_\_\_\_.
- I finally managed to calm them down, but it was \_\_\_\_\_ easy.
- 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

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

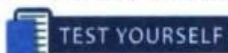
hold      investigation      respect      possession of  
office      attack      touch      means of

- 5 Circle the words which are possible.

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

- 6 Complete the sentences.

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



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