

**GRAMMAR CHECK 3.****PREPOSITIONS 1**

Name: .....

Put one suitable word in each space.

Unlikely as it may seem, there has now been expert confirmation that wild pumas and lynxes are (1) *at* large in parts of Britain, rather than being the figments (2) *of* some wild imaginations. Previous sightings (3) *of* such large cats had been put down (4) *to* exaggeration. (5) *Of* all, the argument went, some people are prone (6) *to* seeing flying saucers and Loch Ness monsters, particularly when (7) *under* the influence of one drink too many. Some newspapers were suspected (8) *of* having made (9) *up* stories such as that of the Beast of Exmoor, an animal which is responsible (10) *for* the deaths of hundreds of sheep over the past ten years. But experts have now come (11) *up* with proof that such stories were (12) *in* earnest after all. The animals are (13) *all* likelihood pets which have escaped (14) *from* small zoos, or been abandoned (15) *to* their owners. Because the keeping (16) *of* such animals is severely restricted (17) *by* the terms of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act of 1976, owners of unlicensed animals might not report an escape (18) *for* fear of prosecution. Britain's only surviving native species, the wild cat, is confined (19) *to* Scotland. After examining hair samples, experts now say that the Beast of Exmoor in the South of England is (20) *not* a puma or lynx, both of which are normally native to the Middle East and Asia.

Put one suitable word in each space.

- My cousin George is obsessed *with* keeping fit.
- Many frozen foods are deficient *in* vitamins.
- They say that there is an exception *to* every rule.
- It was very good *of* Sue to drive us to the airport.
- Breaking his leg put Peter's football career *in* jeopardy.
- The same rule applies, irrespective *of* how much you have paid.
- With total disregard *for* her own safety, Ann jumped in to rescue the dog.
- I'm afraid you are not eligible *for* a pension until you are 65.

3 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

- You think I am someone else.  
**confusing**  
You are *confusing with me* someone else.
- Gary is proud of the fact that he is never late.  
**on**  
Gary prides *on* being early.
- On this ship passengers cannot get onto the bridge.  
**access**  
Passengers have *no access to* the bridge of this ship.
- What is the difference between nuclear fission and nuclear fusion?  
**differ**  
How exactly *do they differ* nuclear fusion?
- An electrical failure was said to be the cause of the fire.  
**blamed**  
They *were blamed for* an electrical failure.
- It's all a matter of money, in the end.  
**comes**  
It all *comes down to* in the end.
- His smooth manner didn't deceive us.  
**taken**  
We were *taken in by* his smooth manner.
- The total came to just under £4,000.  
**worked**  
The total *worked out at* just under £4,000.
- I haven't realised yet what winning this race means.  
**sunk**  
It hasn't *sunk in* won this race.
- In the end we had to walk to the railway station.  
**up**  
We *walked up* to the railway station.

4 Complete each sentence with one suitable preposition.

- a) I really prefer just about anything *to* watching television.
- b) This year's conference coincided *with* two other major conventions.
- c) Is it possible to insure my bike *against* theft?
- d) The problem stems *from* the government's lack of action.
- e) When I asked Jean, she hinted *at* the chance of a promotion for me.
- f) Being rich doesn't count *for* much on a desert island.
- g) I pleaded *with* John to change his mind, but he wouldn't listen.
- h) I can't stand the way she is always boasting *about* her wealthy parents.
- i) My grandfather is always confusing Madonna *with* Maradona.
- j) Could you please refrain *from* smoking in the lecture hall.

5 Complete the text with a suitable preposition in each space.

It never ceases to amaze me how little notice some people now take (1) *of* rules in public places. When I was a child, it would never have occurred to me not to comply (2) *with* the rules. If someone smoked in defiance of a 'No Smoking' sign on a train, they would rapidly be reminded (3) *of* their transgression by several irate passengers, who would refer the errant smoker (4) *to* the sign in no uncertain terms. What's more, the person accused would normally apologise (5) *for* his indiscretion, and would certainly refrain (6) *from* repeating his anti-social behaviour. These days reminding someone (7) *of* their public duty not to drop litter or swear on the streets is likely to succeed only (8) *in* unleashing a torrent of verbal abuse (9) *on* the wrongdoer. Many people seem blithely unaware that, for example, the 'silence in the library' rule applies (10) *to* them, as much as to anyone else. Asking them is not enough, pleading (11) *with* them might still not deter them (12) *from* their noisy chat, resorting (13) *to* physical violence, an undesirable option, seems the only one likely to get a result. But, in all seriousness, what really annoys me is that one is made to feel churlish or old-fashioned just to insist (14) *on* basic respect of everyday manners. Truly, it seems polite behaviour and good manners count (15) *for* nothing in today's society.

6 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

- a) Peter always trusts me with his secrets.  
*in*  
Peter *always confides in* me.
- b) A true story forms the basis of Mary's new novel.  
*on*  
Mary's new novel *is based on* a true story.
- c) I thought it was marvellous that Jane could jump so high.  
*at*  
I *am amazed at* Jane's ability to jump so high.
- d) A lot of people were packed on to the bus.  
*with*  
The bus *was crowded with* people.
- e) You were in my dreams last night.  
*about*  
I *thought about* you last night.
- f) Danny was asked to leave the school for bad behaviour.  
*from*  
Danny was *asked to leave the school* for bad behaviour.
- g) This house makes me think of my own home!  
*of*  
This house *reminds me of* my own home.
- h) Tina rewrote the French book in Spanish.  
*from*  
Tina *translated the French book* into Spanish.
- i) Christmas and roast turkey go together in my mind.  
*with*  
Christmas *is associated with* roast turkey in my mind.
- j) I think a rest would do you good.  
*from*  
I think you *need a rest*.

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

- a) We get on very well with our next-door neighbours.  
terms  
We are on (very) good terms with our next-door neighbours.
- b) Everybody wants Pauline as an after-dinner speaker.  
demand  
Pauline demand as an after-dinner speaker.
- c) After winning the match, the whole team was in a happy mood.  
spirits  
The whole team was in high spirits because of their victory.
- d) I realised I had said something wrong.  
conscious  
I became conscious having said something wrong.
- e) You're not lucky today, I'm afraid.  
out  
You're out of luck today, I'm afraid.
- f) You can't get to the village because of the snow.  
access  
There's no access to the village because of the snow.
- g) The meeting will probably be cancelled.  
probability  
The meeting will probably be cancelled.
- h) The students are living temporarily in a caravan.  
being  
For being the students are living in a caravan.
- i) I intend to discover the truth somehow or other.  
or  
One or other I intend to discover the truth.
- j) The soldiers entered the castle while it was dark.  
cover  
Under cover the soldiers entered the castle.

Put one suitable preposition in each space.

- a) Helen had great admiration for her history teacher.
- b) I'm afraid I'm not very good at animals.
- c) The favourite dropped out of the race at the early stages.
- d) I was under the impression that you liked Indian food.
- e) The minister stated that no real alternative to the plan existed.
- f) This town is famous for its hand-woven carpets.
- g) Your performance this term contrasts very favourably with last term's.
- h) Many young people become addicted to drugs through ignorance.
- i) Apparently a number of army officers were implicated in the plot.
- j) Carol doesn't have a very good relationship with her mother.

9. Fill in the blanks in with the correct preposition in each sentence.

- a) Diane showed a complete disregard for her own safety.
- b) I was totally baffled by Tim's behaviour.
- c) For Romeo and Juliet it was love at first sight.
- d) They wouldn't let me in the pub because I was below age.
- e) Our house has been in the market for months.
- f) You are perfectly capable of making your own bed. I would have thought!
- g) We walked on tiptoe for fear of being discovered.
- h) This is one of the exceptions to the rule.
- i) I am surprised at you, forgetting your briefcase like that.
- j) We met at the hotel completely by coincidence.

- b. .... c. .... d. ....
- e. .... g. .... h. ....
- i. .... j. ....

10. Complete the text with a suitable preposition in each space.

David Peters, the Scottish long-jumper, has been awarded a knighthood in recognition (1) .....of.....his services to charity and the world of athletics. Sir David, as he will be known, will be knighted by the Queen in a ceremony next week. Mr Peters, who retired from athletics last year, had a talent which was, quite simply, (2).....of the ordinary. All his performances were, (3).....exception, characterised by great effort and determination. He seemed to thrive on difficult situations, and it was when (4).....pressure, that he produced his greatest performances. In later years, he became increasingly prone (5).....injury, and last year, his talents evidently (6).....decline, he failed to regain his Olympic long-jump title, and promptly retired. At his best, however, his jumping was sometimes (7).....belief, and in his greatest year, 2000, he broke the world record no fewer than four times. In the late 1990s he was single-handedly responsible (8).....bringing British athletics out of a severe slump with his inspirational performances and personal charisma. Peters was capable (9).....great generosity, and once, famously, failed a jump deliberately in order to let his great rival, Aravan Sijipal, win on his farewell appearance. When being interviewed, Peters was also an exception to the rule, for he always tried to praise others rather than blow his own trumpet. A deeply religious man, he was (10).....dispute with the athletics authorities on more than one occasion for his refusal to compete on Sundays. His anti-drugs campaign had a great effect (11).....young athletes all over Britain, and throughout his career, he remained very conscious (12).....what he saw as his public duty in this respect. Many charitable organisations have reason to be grateful (13).....him (14).....the time he devoted to raising money for their causes.

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