

# Adjectives plus prepositions

Read the article. Do you think the son was addicted to playing video games? Find evidence for your opinion.

According to a Chinese blog, a man has hired gamers to find his son in an online game and kill his character.

The man was unhappy with his son for not finding a job and was also worried about the amount of time the 23-year-old spent playing games online. So he found some other gamers who were particularly good at online combat games and paid them to kill his son's character. His son became aware of the situation when people kept attacking him. He was so curious about it that he asked one of his attackers to explain. Apparently, the son was shocked at the answer, but he was not particularly angry with his father. After all, people who play online combat games are used to being killed!

We are probably all familiar with stories of video game addiction. However, many experts are not sure that it is a real condition. They point out that spending a lot of time doing something is not the same as being addicted to it. It only becomes an addiction when it is harmful to family life, friendships or work.

## LEARN THIS! Adjective + preposition

Many adjectives are followed by certain prepositions: *in, at, of, with, etc.*

*to be obsessed with / successful in / sensitive to something*

You need to learn these adjective + preposition combinations as they do not follow any rules. A good dictionary will tell you which preposition to use with which adjective.

Read the **Learn this!** box. Then underline these adjectives in the text in exercise 2. Which prepositions follow them?

addicted angry aware curious familiar  
good harmful shocked unhappy worried

## LOOK OUT!

Some adjectives can be followed by more than one preposition with no difference in use or meaning.

*to be annoyed at / with somebody or something*

But with some adjectives, the preposition changes depending on the type or meaning of the word which follows.

*to be unhappy with somebody / about something*

**similar** /ˈsɪmələ(r)/ *adj* **similar (to sth/sb); similar (in sth)** like sth/sb but not exactly the same: *My phone is similar to my brother's.* • *Our houses are very similar in size.*

5 Circle the correct prepositions to go with these adjectives. Use a dictionary to help you.

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 dissatisfied <b>in / with</b> | 4 sensitive <b>for / to</b> |
| 2 responsible <b>for / in</b>   | 5 pleased <b>to / with</b>  |
| 3 obsessed <b>of / with</b>     | 6 successful <b>in / to</b> |

6 **USE OF ENGLISH** Complete the text with the correct prepositions. All of the adjectives are in exercises 2–5.



**selfie (n):**  
a picture taken of a person by that person

A teenager in the UK, Danny Bowman, became addicted <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 'selfies' and spent up to ten hours a day taking around 200 photos of himself with his phone. This was a true case of addiction: it was harmful <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ his education and his friendships and responsible <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ several health problems. Experts are aware <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the condition and say it is becoming more and more common. Danny first posted selfies on Facebook when he was fifteen and soon became obsessed <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ reading his friends' comments. Although he was pleased <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ many of the things his friends wrote, he was also very sensitive <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ criticism. Before long, he was feeling very dissatisfied <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ his appearance. He took more and more photos of himself. His parents became very worried <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ his behaviour. Because they were both mental health nurses, they were familiar <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ addictions. They knew that Danny needed help. Now, after months of hospital treatment, Danny has been successful <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ beating his addiction. But it's a growing problem, with many other cases similar <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Danny's.

7 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Tell your partner about something that you are (or have been):

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 successful <b>in.</b>  | 5 pleased <b>with.</b> |
| 2 excited <b>about.</b>  | 6 good <b>at.</b>      |
| 3 satisfied <b>with.</b> | 7 angry <b>about.</b>  |
| 4 curious <b>about.</b>  | 8 keen <b>on.</b>      |

I was really successful in my recent music exam.

**Circle the correct prepositions.**

- 1 His eyes are very sensitive **at** / **to** bright lights.
- 2 Are you excited **about** / **for** your holiday?
- 3 She wasn't very pleased **in** / **with** her present.
- 4 Don't worry, nobody is angry **about** / **with** you.
- 5 I want 90%, but I'd be satisfied **for** / **with** 75%.
- 6 Who is responsible **about** / **for** all this mess?
- 7 I'm not familiar **to** / **with** this part of town, so it's easy to get lost.
- 8 If you were dissatisfied **from** / **with** your hotel room, you should have complained.

**Complete the text with *about, at, in, of, on, to, or with*.**



Scientists have been aware <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ technology addictions for many years, but now there is a new kind: recently a man needed treatment after becoming addicted <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Google Glass.

The 31-year-old American man visited a clinic in the USA because he was worried <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ an alcohol addiction. He had to take off his Google Glass when he arrived – and doctors were shocked

<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ his reaction. He suffered withdrawal symptoms which were very similar <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ drug or alcohol withdrawal.

Originally, the man had become keen <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Google Glass because it helped him to become better <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ his job. He gradually became more and more obsessed <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the device. However, he

also began to feel unhappy <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the effect that it was having on his mood: he became bad-tempered and forgetful when he was not wearing it.

The device was helping him to be successful

<sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ his job, but it was harmful

<sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the rest of his life.

At first, the doctors at the clinic were curious

<sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ one symptom: the man kept tapping the right side of his head with his finger. The man later explained that this was how you changed the view on Google Glass.

**Circle the correct words to complete both sentences in each pair.**

- 1 a Log \_\_\_ to the website and go to 'my account'.  
b Which button should I click \_\_\_?  
A at                  B in                  C on                  D with
- 2 a I don't get as \_\_\_ emails as you do.  
b There aren't \_\_\_ Wi-Fi hotspots near here.  
A many              B most              C much              D any
- 3 a I'm usually very busy, so I spend \_\_\_ time playing computer games.  
b There's \_\_\_ information on this website; it isn't very useful.  
A few                  B a few                  C a little                  D little
- 4 a He didn't answer his phone. He \_\_\_ not have heard it.  
b Let's call later, they \_\_\_ be having dinner now.  
A could              B might              C must              D can
- 5 a My phone battery \_\_\_ have run out yet. I've only just charged it!  
b Matt's games console \_\_\_ be working. He's reading a book!  
A can't                  B may                  C could                  D must
- 6 a Old technical gadgets can be harmful \_\_\_ the environment.  
b My MP3 player is similar \_\_\_ my sister's. The only difference is the colour.  
A with                  B of                  C as                  D to
- 7 a My friend is annoyed \_\_\_ me about the comment I posted on her wall.  
b How many people do you know who are obsessed \_\_\_ online games?  
A about                  B in                  C with                  D at