

124 Noun + preposition (trouble with)

1 Introduction

Read this true story about a prison escape.

Prisoners at a jail in Iowa in the US were trying to think of a way of escaping. At last they found an answer to their problem. They told the governor about their interest in drama and their need for creative activities. They put in a request for some tunnel-digging equipment for a play about coalminers. They knew that the governor felt sympathy for his prisoners and wanted a good relationship with them, but they weren't surprised when he said no. But later, when the prisoners mentioned the importance of physical fitness, the governor agreed to let them use a trampoline. Their skill at trampolining was put to good use when six prisoners bounced over the prison wall and escaped.

Some nouns can have a preposition after them, e.g. way of, answer to, interest in.

The preposition often has a phrase with a noun after it.

the answer to the problem their interest in drama

And the preposition can sometimes have an -ing form after it.

a way of escaping their skill at trampolining

2 Noun + preposition

Here are some more examples.

your ability in maths

a cheap alternative to leather

an attack on the government

my attitude to/towards him

a belief in God

the cause of the accident

the cost of living

some damage to the car

a difficulty over/with visas

an example of this

some experience of selling

an expert on computers

no hope of winning

an invitation to a party

some knowledge of Italian

a lack of money

something the matter with you

a new method of storing data

your opinion of the film

the price of food

the reason for the delay

respect for the environment

a student of chemistry

a substitute for meat

success at golf/in my search

a tax on alcohol

having trouble with my teeth

3 Connection, difference; increase, reduction, etc.

One thing has a link with another.

a connection with another crime

Matthew's relationship with Emma

the contrast with yesterday's weather

There is a link between two things.

a connection between the two crimes

the relationship between Matthew and Emma

the contrast/difference between town and country

Look at these words for increases and decreases. We use in before the thing that is increasing or decreasing and of before the amount of the increase or decrease.

an increase/rise in the price

a reduction/fall in the number of unemployed

an increase/rise of £10

a reduction/fall of 3%

4 Need, wish, etc.

Nouns meaning 'need', 'wish' or 'request' can have for after them.

There's a need for more houses. There was no demand for the product.

Here are some examples: appetite for, application for, demand for, desire for, need for, order for, preference for, request for, taste for, wish for

Practice

A Noun + preposition (1–2)

Complete the conversation. Put in *at, in* or *of*.

Daniel: What's the job you've applied for?

Vicky: It's with a travel company. But the advert says that you need some experience (►) *of* work in tourism. I haven't got that. And I don't think my knowledge (1) foreign languages will be good enough. I'm having no success at all (2) my attempts to get a job.

Daniel: What about your interest (3) computers? And your skill (4) typing? That's the sort of thing employers are looking for.

B Noun + preposition (1–2)

Complete the sentences. Use a preposition after these nouns:

answer, cause, damage, difficulty, invitation, matter, tax, way

► I've had an *invitation to* Laura's barbecue.

1 The accident caused some the car.

2 I'm trying to think of the best getting this piano upstairs.

3 I can't think of an the problem, I'm afraid.

4 The the accident is still unknown.

5 The government has introduced a new luxury goods.

6 Unfortunately there was some the arrangements.

7 The television won't come on. What's the it?

C Noun + preposition (2–3)

Complete the advertisement for a supermarket. Put in *between, for, in, of* or *with*.

Why not shop at Greenway Supermarket? You'll find the cost (►) *of* your weekly shopping is much lower. There's quite a contrast (1) other stores. Here's one example

(2) this: from today many of our products have a price reduction

(3) five per cent! But this is not the only reason (4)

Greenway's success. We're proud of our good relationship (5) our customers.

We believe there is simply no substitute (6) quality. And there is no lack

(7) choice at Greenway. That's the difference (8)

Greenway and ordinary stores.

D Noun + preposition (1–4)

What are they saying? Read about each situation and complete the sentence.

► A motorist has rung the garage and requested a breakdown truck.

Mechanic: I've just had a *request for a breakdown truck*.

1 Claude can answer all the quiz questions.

Claude: I can tell you the

2 Matthew doesn't know any French.

Matthew: Unfortunately I have no

3 The Prime Minister greatly desires progress.

Prime Minister: I have a great

4 Vicky thinks the two colours are the same.

Vicky: I can't see any

5 Most people say they prefer Zedco products.

Zedco: Most people express a