

A

Verb + preposition

Pay special attention to prepositions that are different in your language.

Paul doesn't like the manager's decision and I **agree with** him. [have the same opinion as]

Don't **worry about** your exam. [be nervous about]

His teachers were **satisfied with** his progress. [pleased with]

Many people **spend** a lot of money **on** clothes.

I'm **thinking of going** to China. [it's my plan to go] (used in the continuous form)

This land **belongs to** the company. [it is the company's land]

I **translated** the letter **into** French. [changed from one language into another]

She **complained to** the manager **about** the food. [said she wasn't happy/satisfied with]

I can't **concentrate on** [think about] my work when the radio is playing.

We can **rely on** this photocopier. [trust it; it will not go wrong]

I may go but it **depends on** the weather. [used to say you are not sure about something]

Language help

Depend (on) has other meanings:

Martha **depends on** her son for money. [she needs his money]

We can **depend on** the others for support. [we can trust the others to support us]

Remember: it **depends on** something or someone (NOT it depends ~~of~~ something or someone)

B

Prepositions that change the meaning



She **shouted to** me. [spoke in a loud voice to be heard]



He **shouted at** me. [spoke in a loud voice because he was angry]



He **threw** the ball **to** me. [for me to catch it]



He **threw** the ball **at** me. [in order to hit me]

C

Adjective + preposition

I've never been very **good at** maths. (opp **bad at**)

She's **afraid of** flying. [frightened of]

The neighbours **are fond of** the children. [like]

She's **similar to** her sister [the same as her in some ways], but very **different from** her brother.

He's very **interested in** photography.

I think she's **aware of** the problem. [knows about]

I'm **tired of** people telling me what to do. [bored or a bit angry about]

Katya **is mad about** Brad Pitt. [likes him very much; *infm*]

We're **short of** coffee at the moment. [we don't have much]

There's **something wrong with** this TV. [the TV is not working correctly]

Exercises

77.1 Match the sentence beginnings on the left with the best endings on the right.

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 He's tired | ☒ | a me, but it missed. |
| 2 She wasn't aware | ☐ | b to the manager. |
| 3 He threw the pen to | ☐ | c of working at weekends. |
| 4 She complained | ☐ | d his friend on the other side of the lake. |
| 5 He shouted at | ☐ | e me, but I dropped it. |
| 6 He shouted to | ☐ | f with them. |
| 7 He threw the book at | ☐ | g us to get out of his garden. |
| 8 I don't agree | ☐ | h of her mistakes. |

77.2 Complete the questions with the correct preposition, then write an answer for each one.

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|--|----------------------|
| 1 A: What is she worried <u>about</u> ? | B: <u>Her exams.</u> |
| 2 A: What subjects is she good _____ ? | B: _____ |
| 3 A: Who does this belong _____ ? | B: _____ |
| 4 A: What does he spend all his money _____ ? | B: _____ |
| 5 A: What are you afraid _____ ? | B: _____ |
| 6 A: What kind of films are you interested _____ ? | B: _____ |
| 7 A: What does the decision depend _____ ? | B: _____ |
| 8 A: I know he's angry, but who's he shouting _____ ? | B: _____ |
| 9 A: Who can we rely _____ ? | B: _____ |
| 10 A: What language is the book being translated _____ ? | B: _____ |

77.3 Complete the dialogues.

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|---|---|
| 1 A: Are you going to the exhibition?
B: Yes, I'm very <u>interested</u> in art. | 6 A: Did you like the course?
B: No, I wasn't very satisfied _____ it. |
| 2 A: Is she _____ to her sister?
B: No, they're completely different. | 7 A: What's the matter?
B: I can't _____ on this with the TV on. |
| 3 A: What did she _____ about?
B: She wasn't happy with the food. | 8 A: It's a big problem.
B: Yes, but we're _____ of that. |
| 4 A: Angel is very good-looking.
B: That's why I'm _____ about him! | 9 A: We're a bit _____ of milk.
B: OK. I'll buy some when I go out. |
| 5 A: What's _____ with the radio?
B: I don't know, but it's not working. | 10 A: Do Max's children have jobs?
B: No, they still _____ on their parents. |

77.4 Do you know which preposition follows the words below? They are all in this book. If you don't know, use the index to help you. A good dictionary will tell you if a verb or adjective is usually followed by a special preposition.

keen _____ succeed _____ apply _____
suffer _____ get married _____ apologise _____

77.5 Over to you

Complete the sentences about yourself. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

- 1 I'm not very good _____.
- 2 I've always been interested _____.
- 3 I'm not very fond _____.
- 4 I spend most of my money _____.
- 5 For my next holiday, I'm thinking _____.