



## The Use of Different Types of Words and Corresponding Prepositions

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### Abstract

This paper aimed to present different types of words: adjectives, nouns, and verbs used with corresponding prepositions, for the writers have found that the students have had a lot of difficulty in matching them in both speaking and writing, and that it causes misunderstanding in communication. The writers, therefore, would like to share what prepositions are to be properly used with these types of words to promote better communication among the learners of English.

### Introduction

While teaching English, both general English courses and the English major courses in the past years, the writers found that the students had quite a lot of problems in using words and prepositions to correspond with them. Needless to say, that was one of the major causes of miscommunication. Thus, the writers tried to correct the problem by bringing this subject matter to be a focus of the introduction to writing course, and of other English for communication courses. The results were that most of the students (90%) could properly use the words and corresponding prepositions. Thus, the writers have encouraged other teachers to emphasize this notion while teaching their students the proper use of English. Moreover, we would like to share it with others interested in learning English for communication.

The different types of word the writers would like to present in this paper are adjectives, nouns, and verbs, with their corresponding prepositions accordingly. Besides, sample sentences are offered, not to mention some exercises for the reader to work on if interested.

### Part 1: Adjectives and Corresponding Prepositions

#### 1.1 The adjectives + about (somebody/ something)

upset          worried

- Are you upset about not being able to finish your paper on time?
- I'm worried about you. I don't want you to work too hard.

#### 1.2 The adjectives + at/by (something); at (doing something)

at/by (something):

amazed          astonished  
shocked          surprised

- They are astonished at her decision to drop out.
- I'm not surprised by the news. I know what had happened.

at (doing something)

bad          brilliant          excellent  
good          hopeless

- I'm not very good at singing now.
  - Tony is excellent at repairing things.
- #### 1.3 The adjectives + for (something; doing something)

famous          responsible

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• Khon Kaen is famous for Mud Mee silk and Khao Suan Gwang grilled chicken.

• You are to be responsible for cleaning up this mess.

**1.4 The adjective + from/to** (someone/ something)

different

• Jay looks a little bit different from Jane though they are identical twins.

**1.5 The adjectives + in** (someone/ something)

interested    successful

• Josh is very interested in foreign languages, especially Japanese and Chinese.

• Brenda hopes to be successful in her business someday.

**1.6 The adjectives + of** (someone/ something; someone to do something)

of (someone/something)

afraid    conscious    full

scared    ashamed    envious

frightened    short    aware

Incapable    jealous    suspicious

capable    fond    proud

terrified    tired

• What are you afraid of, ghosts or the dark?

• You should be ashamed of you self for cheating in the exam!

• I'm tired of waiting for him every day.

• I'm so proud of you, Almira.

• He is incapable of passing the English exit exam.

• Sometimes we are short of money.

of (someone to do something)

clever    impolite    polite

stupid    generous    kind

rude    unreasonable    good

mean    sensible    intelligent

nice    silly    unreasonable

• It is very kind of you to help the needy.

• It was stupid of her to go out alone at night.

• It is very clever of you to bring your own bag with you when going shopping.

**1.7 The adjective + on** (someone/ something)

keen

• Don is not very keen on Debbie; he does not like her much.

• Jenny is keen on jazz. She is an excellent jazz singer.

**1.8 The adjectives + to** (someone/ something)

accustomed    generous

married    rude    cruel

good    mean    similar

engaged    kind    pleasant

unfriendly    friendly    nice

polite    unpleasant

• Mr. Summer is very nice to his co-workers.

• Thai food is very pleasant to his taste.

• Your jacket is similar to mine.

• Mrs Turner is accustomed to living alone. She refused to live with her children.

• Jill is married to an Australian.

**1.9 The adjective + with** (someone/ something; someone for doing something)

with (someone/something)

bored    delighted    pleased

crowded    fed up    satisfied

• We are getting bored with the tight schedule, having to do the same thing every year.

• We are delighted with the changes to be made very soon.

• The stores are crowded with people on the weekends.

• I am fed up with his negative attitudes towards people around him.

• We should be satisfied with what we have.

with (someone for doing something)

annoyed

• Once in a while he is annoyed with her for being so stupid.



**1.10 The adjectives with more than one corresponding prepositions**

about (something)

at (what somebody does or says)

with (someone for doing something)

angry    furious

• Why are you always angry about trivial things?

• I'm getting angry at what you're saying?

• Ken is furious with his wife for not telling him the truth.

about/at/by (something)

excited

• The children were excited about their Christmas presents.

about/at (something)

in/with (someone/something)

disappointed

• I'm sorry to say I am disappointed in you; I'm disappointed with your

exam results.

• Her mother was disappointed at not finding her at home.

about (something)

for (someone/something)

for (doing something)

sorry

• I'm sorry about what you have done to me.

• We felt sorry for the old man who was left on a street.

• I'm sorry for being late.

**Exercise 1**

**Directions:** Complete this note with proper prepositions in Part 1.

Dear Lisa,

I'm sorry \_\_\_1\_\_\_ leaving without saying goodbye. I'm not angry \_\_\_2\_\_\_ anything; I'm not angry \_\_\_3\_\_\_ what you have said to me. I know it is very impolite or rude \_\_\_4\_\_\_ me to do this. But I'm not good \_\_\_5\_\_\_ pretending. I'm

incapable \_\_\_6\_\_\_ showing a fake smile while I'm crying inside.

I know you'll be disappointed \_\_\_7\_\_\_ me, \_\_\_8\_\_\_ what I've done. I hope you are not worried \_\_\_9\_\_\_ what I'm going to do in the future. Trust me! I'm keen \_\_\_10\_\_\_ doing odd jobs. I'll be all right.

Thank you for everything.

Ray

**Part 2:** Commonly Used Nouns with Corresponding Prepositions (C = Count Noun/Countable Noun; U = Noncount Noun/Uncountable Noun)

**2.1 Some nouns + for** (something/ doing something)

Check/cheque (C) (for an amount of money)

demand (C)    excuse (C)

need (C)    reason (C)

statistics (U)

• Could you please write a check for ten thousand baht?

• Now there is a great demand for hygienic masks due to the transmission of Corona viruses.

• Do you have an excuse for being late?

• This course is Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences.

**2.2 Some nouns + in** (something/doing something)

advantage (C)    decrease (C)

fall (C)    course (C) (in/on)

disadvantage (C)    rise (C)

• There are quite a few advantages in studying at this college.

• In Thailand, there has been a decrease in exports this year.

**2.3 The noun + in/into** (something)

research in/into (a broader area) research on (a specific topic)

• All university lecturers must do research in or into something related to their field.



• That is to say, English teachers must do research on a topic in English or the teaching of English.

**2.4 Some nouns + of** (someone/ something) introduction (U) (of something into something)

advantage (C)      disadvantage (C)  
possibility (C)      cause (C)  
intention (C,U)      transmission (C, U)  
choice (C)      meaning (C, U)  
study (C)      definition (C)  
photograph/picture (C) (+the noun of)

• The major disadvantage of this job is a heavy workload.

• I have no intention of hurting your feelings.

• This is a terrific photograph of yours.

• We pray that the transmission of the disease can be controlled soon.

• Can you explain the meaning of democracy?

• The introduction of online lessons into the classroom is exciting.

**2.5 Some noun + to** (someone/ something)

answer (C)      introduction (C)  
reply (C)      attitude (C) (to/towards)  
invitation (C)      solution (C)  
damage (U)      key (C)

• Please check if you have the key to your door before locking it up.

• Can you give an answer to my question now?

• This is an introduction to paragraph writing.

• We have to find a solution to that problem as soon as possible.

**2.6 Some nouns + with** (someone/ something)

connection (C)      relationship (C)  
contact (C) (“between” two persons/ things; “among” more than two persons/things)

• Nowadays we have to have some connections with others for business benefit.

• Jill’s relationship with Greg is still on good terms.

• The relationship between Jill and Greg is still on good terms.

### 2.7 Prepositions + nouns

(1) by + noun

(to pay) by ...

check      credit      card

(to do something) by ...

accident      chance      mistake

(a piece of work) by (someone)

• Would you like to pay for this by check or credit card?

• Last week I met my college friends by chance at Fairy Plaza.

• I’m soory I took your umbrella by mistake.

(2) for + noun

(to go to a place) for ...

a holiday      someone’s holidays

(to go/to come) for ...

a drink      a swim      a walk

(to eat/have something) for ...

breakfast      lunch      a snack

dinner      supper

• This year, we have planned to go to the South for our holidays.

• Would you like to go for a walk in the country this weekend?

• What did you have for breakfast this morning?

(3) in + noun

love (with someone) the newspaper (someone’s) opinion

• I read the news in the newspaper yesterday.

• Jamie is in love with Megan now.

• In my opinion, the government has been trying its best.

(4) on + noun

fire      television      the radio

the Web      the Internet



(to be) on ...  
television the radio  
the telephone/phone

(to be/to go) on ...  
a cruise a trip an excursion  
business strike  
a diet a tour an expedition  
holiday

- The boss is not available now.

He's on the phone.

- Are you here on business or on holiday?

• The company is closed because the workers are on strike.

• Janet does not eat much now. She is on a diet.

## Exercise 2

Directions: Complete each blank with a proper word in Part 2. Complete each one with the right form of the word.

Amy is doing some research \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ the causes \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_ the student's English speaking problems. She wants to propose some \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ help solve the problems. Her basic \_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_6\_\_\_\_\_ her work is that she intends to make it possible for Thai students to be able to speak English fluently. She can see several \_\_\_\_\_7\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_8\_\_\_\_\_ doing this. Needless to say, \_\_\_\_\_9\_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_10\_\_\_\_\_, Amy is doing the right thing.

**Part 3: Commonly Used Verbs and Corresponding prepositions**

The verbs presented here are excluding phrasal verbs.

### 3.1 The verb + at (someone/something)

smile

- What are you smiling at?

**3.2 Verbs + in (someone/something; doing something)**

believe succeed

- Do you believe in me?

• More people believe in getting plenty of exercise.

• If you are well-prepared, you will succeed in passing the exams.

### 3.3 Verbs + for

apply (for a job/a place at an educational institution)

pay (someone for something)

• After graduation, Ava is going to apply for a job at an international company.

• How much do I have to pay Lada for her beautiful handmade bag?

### 3.4 Verbs + of

accuse (someone of something/doing something)

approve (of someone/something)

• Don't accuse anyone of doing anything if you do not see it with your own eyes.

• I will never approve of the students' unreliable grades.

### 3.5 Verbs + on

(1) on (someone/something)

depend rely

(2) on (something/doing something)

concentrate insist

• Thai teenagers can depend on their parents until they graduate from university.

• Don't rely too much on others if you want to succeed.

• You should concentrate on your studies for the time being.

• Should we always insist on doing our best?

### 3.6 Verbs + to

(1) to (someone/something)

belong happen listen

(2) to (someone for something)

apologize

(3) to (someone about something)

complain

• Do you belong to any political party?

• What happened to you?

• If they had listened to me, they would have finished their independent studies.



- I apologize to you for making too many mistakes.

- Dave complained to the manager about unsatisfactory services at the hotel.

### 3.7 The verb+with (someone/something) collide

- He drove very fast and collided with a taxi.

### 3.8 Verbs with more than one possible corresponding prepositions

(1) bump against/into (someone/something)

(2) crash into/to (something)

(3) care about (someone/something in a sense that the person/thing is important); care for (someone/something in a sense that the person

needs help or the thing is offered)

(4) call at (visit a place); call on (visit someone)

(5) die from/of (something)

(6) dream about (someone/ something); dream of (being something/doing something)

(7) hear about (something); hear of (someone/something); hear from (someone)

(8) search for (someone/something); search through (something for something)

(9) speak about (someone/ something); speak of (something); speak to (someone about something)

(10) suffer for/from (something)

(11) think about (consider, concentrate the mind on someone/something); think of (remember, have an idea of someone/something)

(12) wait for (someone/something); wait for (someone) to do (something)

(13) worry about (someone/ something); worry (someone) with (something)

- I bumped into an old friend from college at the mall last Sunday.

- He was driving too fast and crashed into a big tree.

- I would like you to know that I always do care about you.

- Surprisingly Janet called on me last night! We were so happy that we spent all night talking about our good old days.

- Some more people have died from Covid-19.

- I never stop dreaming of becoming a good English teacher.

- We haven't heard from Jamie since he left Thailand.

- Have you searched through your office for your bill and coin collections?

- Can I speak to you about our next vacation?

- It serves him right! Now he is suffering from what he did to her.

- I have been thinking about quitting my job; I want to do something else now.

- Hurry up! I've been waiting for you for ages.

- Don't worry about me. I'll be doing just fine.

### Exercise 3

**Directions:** Complete this paragraph with the words listed in Part 3. Use each word once only.

I spoke \_\_\_1\_\_\_ my doctor \_\_\_2\_\_\_ Covid-19. He told me not to \_\_\_3\_\_\_ too much \_\_\_4\_\_\_ it. However, I would have to wear a KN 95 mask when I go out. Of course, I had to \_\_\_5\_\_\_ \_\_\_6\_\_\_ him, but the only problem was where to find KN 95 masks. I tried to \_\_\_7\_\_\_ \_\_\_8\_\_\_ them. Unluckily, the stores I went to said they were out of stock! That means I would have to \_\_\_9\_\_\_, or else I would have to use some other masks. Now I know I must rely \_\_\_10\_\_\_ myself!



### Keys to Exercises

#### Exercise 1:

1. for
2. about
3. at
4. of
5. at
6. of
7. in/with
8. about/at
9. about
10. on

#### Exercise 2:

1. on
2. of
3. solutions
4. to
5. reason
6. for
7. advantages
8. about/at
9. in
10. opinion

#### Exercise 3:

1. to
2. about
3. worry
4. about
5. listen
6. to
7. search
8. for
9. wait
10. on

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