

Noun + preposition (reason for, cause of etc.)

A Noun + for ...

a demand / a need **FOR** ...

The company closed down because there wasn't enough demand for its product.
There's no excuse for behaviour like that. There's no need for it.

a reason **FOR** ...

The train was late, but nobody knew the reason for the delay. (*not* reason of)

B Noun + of ...

an advantage / a disadvantage **OF** ...

The advantage of living alone is that you can do what you like.

but

there is an advantage in (or to) doing something

There are many advantages in living alone. *or* ... many advantages to living alone.

a cause **OF** ...

The cause of the explosion is unknown.

a picture / a photo / a photograph / a map / a plan / a drawing (etc.) **OF** ...

Rachel showed me some pictures of her family.

I had a map of the town, so I was able to find my way around.

C Noun + in ...

an increase / a decrease / a rise / a fall **IN** (prices etc.)

There has been an increase in the number of road accidents recently.

Last year was a bad one for the company. There was a big fall in sales.

D Noun + to ...

damage **TO** ...

The accident was my fault, so I had to pay for the damage to the other car.

an invitation **TO** ... (a party / a wedding etc.)

Did you get an invitation to the party?

a solution **TO** (a problem) / a key **TO** (a door) / an answer **TO** (a question) / a reply **TO** (a letter) / a reaction **TO** ...

I hope we find a solution to the problem. (*not* a solution of the problem)

I was surprised at her reaction to my suggestion.

an attitude **TO** ... *or* an attitude **TOWARDS** ...

His attitude to his job is very negative. *or* His attitude towards his job ...

E Noun + with ... / between ...

a relationship / a connection / contact **WITH** ...

Do you have a good relationship with your parents?

The police want to question a man in connection with the robbery.

but

a relationship / a connection / contact / a difference **BETWEEN** two things or people

The police believe that there is no connection between the two crimes.

Exercises

129.1 Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first.

- What caused the explosion? What was the cause *of the explosion* ?
- We're trying to solve the problem.
We're trying to find a solution
- Sue gets on well with her brother.
Sue has a good relationship
- The cost of living has gone up a lot.
There has been a big increase
- I don't know how to answer your question.
I can't think of an answer
- I don't think that a new road is necessary.
I don't think there is any need
- I think that working at home has many advantages.
I think that there are many advantages
- The number of people without jobs fell last month.
Last month there was a fall
- Nobody wants to buy shoes like these any more.
There is no demand
- In what way is your job different from mine?
What is the difference

129.2 Complete the sentences using these nouns + a preposition:

cause	connection	contact	damage	invitation
key	map	photographs	reason	reply

- On the wall there were some pictures and a *map of* the world.
- Thank you for the your party next week.
- Since she left home two years ago, Sophie has had little her family.
- I can't open this door. Do you have a the other door?
- The the fire at the hotel last week is still unknown.
- Did you get a the email you sent to the company?
- The two companies are completely independent. There is no them.
- Jane showed me some old the city as it looked 100 years ago.
- Carol has decided to give up her job. I don't know her doing this.
- It wasn't a bad accident. The the car wasn't serious.

129.3 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

- There are some differences *between* British and American English.
- Money isn't the solution every problem.
- There has been an increase the amount of traffic using this road.
- The advantage having a car is that you don't have to rely on public transport.
- There are many advantages being able to speak a foreign language.
- Everything can be explained. There's a reason everything.
- When Paul left home, his attitude his parents seemed to change.
- Ben and I used to be good friends, but I don't have much contact him now.
- There has been a sharp rise property prices in the past few years.
- What was Sarah's reaction the news?
- If I give you the camera, can you take a picture me?
- The company has rejected the workers' demands a rise pay.
- What was the answer question 3 in the test?
- The fact that Jane was offered a job has no connection the fact that she is a friend of the managing director.

Exercises

130.1 Complete the sentences using nice of ... , kind of ... etc.

- 1 I went out in the cold without a coat.
- 2 Tom offered to drive me to the airport.
- 3 I needed money and Sue gave me some.
- 4 They didn't invite us to their party.
- 5 Can I help you with your luggage?
- 6 Kevin never says 'thank you'.
- 7 They've had an argument and now they refuse to speak to each other.

- (silly) That was silly of you
- (nice)
That was him.
- (generous)
That
- (not very nice)
That wasn't
- (very kind)
.....
- (not very polite)
.....
- (a bit childish)
.....

130.2 Complete the sentences using these adjectives + a preposition:

amazed angry bored careless excited impressed kind nervous

- 1 Are you nervous about the exam?
- 2 Thank you for all you've done. You've been very me.
- 3 What have I done wrong? Why are you me?
- 4 You must be very your trip next week. It sounds really great.
- 5 I wasn't the service in the restaurant. We had to wait ages before our food arrived.
- 6 Ben isn't very happy at college. He says he's the course he's doing.
- 7 I'd never seen so many people before. I was the crowds.
- 8 It was you to leave the door unlocked when you went out.

130.3 Put in the correct preposition.

- 1 They were delighted with the present I gave them.
- 2 It was nice you to come and see me when I was ill.
- 3 Why are you so rude people? Why can't you be more polite?
- 4 We always have the same food every day. I'm fed up it.
- 5 We enjoyed our holiday, but we were a bit disappointed the hotel.
- 6 I can't understand people who are cruel animals.
- 7 I was surprised the way he behaved. It was completely out of character.
- 8 I've been trying to learn Spanish, but I'm not very satisfied my progress.
- 9 Tanya doesn't look very well. I'm worried her.
- 10 They told me they were sorry the situation, but there was nothing they could do.
- 11 I wouldn't like to be in her position. I feel sorry her.
- 12 Are you still upset what I said to you yesterday?
- 13 Some people say Kate is unfriendly, but she's always been very nice me.
- 14 I'm tired doing the same thing every day. I need a change.
- 15 The man we interviewed for the job was intelligent and we were impressed the way he answered our questions.
- 16 I'm sorry the smell of paint in this room. I've just finished redecorating it.
- 17 I was shocked what I saw. I'd never seen anything like it before.
- 18 Our neighbours were very angry the noise we made.
- 19 Our neighbours were furious us making so much noise.
- 20 I'm sorry what I did. I hope you're not angry me.

Adjective + preposition 1

It was nice of you to ...

nice / kind / good / generous / polite / stupid / silly etc. OF somebody (to do something)

- Thank you. It was very **kind of you** to help me.
- It is **stupid of me** to go out without a coat in such cold weather.

but

(be) nice / kind / good / generous / polite / rude / friendly / cruel etc. TO somebody

- They have always been very **nice to me**. (*not with me*)
- Why were you so **unfriendly to Lucy**?

Adjective + about / with

angry / annoyed / furious / upset { ABOUT something
WITH somebody FOR doing something

- There's no point in getting **angry about** things that don't matter.
- Are you **annoyed with me for** being late?
- Lisa is **upset about** not being invited to the party.

excited / worried / nervous / happy etc. ABOUT a situation

- Are you **nervous about** the exam?

pleased / satisfied / happy / delighted / disappointed WITH something you receive, or the result of something

- They were **delighted with** the present I gave them.
- Were you **happy with** your exam results?

Adjective + at / by / with / of

surprised / shocked / amazed / astonished / upset AT or BY something

- Everybody was **surprised at (or by)** the news.
- I hope you weren't **shocked by (or at)** what I said.

impressed WITH or BY somebody/something

- I'm very **impressed with (or by)** her English. It's very good.

fed up / bored WITH something

- I don't enjoy my job any more. I'm **fed up with it.** / I'm **bored with it.**

tired / sick OF something

- Come on, let's go! I'm **tired of waiting.** / I'm **sick of waiting.**

Sorry about / for

sorry ABOUT a situation or something that happened

- I'm **sorry about** the mess. I'll clear it up later.
- Sorry about** last night. (= Sorry about something that happened last night)

sorry FOR or ABOUT something you did

- Alex is very **sorry for** what he said. (*or sorry about* what he said)
- I'm **sorry for** shouting at you yesterday. (*or sorry about* shouting)

You can also say 'I'm sorry I (did something)':

- I'm **sorry I shouted** at you yesterday.

feel / be sorry FOR somebody who is in a bad situation

- I **feel sorry for** Matt. He's had a lot of bad luck. (*not I feel sorry about* Matt)

Adjective + preposition 2

Adjective + of (1)

- afraid / frightened / terrified / scared OF ...**
 - 'Are you afraid of spiders?' 'Yes, I'm terrified of them.'
- fond / proud / ashamed / jealous / envious OF ...**
 - Why are you always so jealous of other people?
- suspicious / critical / tolerant OF ...**
 - He didn't trust me. He was suspicious of my motives.

Adjective + of (2)

- aware / conscious OF ...**
 - 'Did you know he was married?' 'No, I wasn't aware of that.'
- capable / incapable OF ...**
 - I'm sure you are capable of passing the examination.
- full / short OF ...**
 - Amy is a very active person. She's always full of energy.
 - I'm short of money. Can you lend me some?
- typical OF ...**
 - He's late again. It's typical of him to keep everybody waiting.
- certain / sure OF or ABOUT ...**
 - I think she's arriving this evening, but I'm not sure of that. *or ... not sure about that.*

Adjective + at / to / from / in / on / with / for

- good / bad / brilliant / better / hopeless etc. AT ...**
 - I'm not very good at repairing things. (*not good in repairing things*)
- married / engaged TO ...**
 - Louise is married to an American. (*not married with*)
- but Louise is married with three children.** (= she is married and has three children)
- similar TO ...**
 - Your writing is similar to mine.
- different FROM or different TO ...**
 - The film was different from what I'd expected. *or ... different to what I'd expected.*
- interested IN ...**
 - Are you interested in art?
- keen ON ...**
 - We stayed at home because Chris wasn't very keen on going out.
- dependent ON ... (but independent OF ...)**
 - I don't want to be dependent on anybody.
- crowded WITH (people etc.)**
 - The streets were crowded with tourists. (*but ... full of tourists*)
- famous FOR ...**
 - The Italian city of Florence is famous for its art treasures.
- responsible FOR ...**
 - Who was responsible for all that noise last night?

Exercises

131.1 Complete the sentences using these adjectives + the correct preposition:
 afraid capable different interested proud responsible similar sure

- I think she's arriving this evening, but I'm not sure of that.
- Your camera is different mine, but it isn't exactly the same.
- Don't worry. I'll look after you. There's nothing to be afraid of.
- I never watch the news on TV. I'm not interested in the news.
- The editor is the person who is responsible for what appears in a newspaper.
- Sarah is a keen gardener. She's very interested in her garden and loves showing it to visitors.
- I was surprised when I met Lisa for the first time. She was different what I expected.
- He could become world champion one day. He's capable of it.

131.2 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

- There were lots of tourists in the streets. The streets were crowded with tourists.
- There was a lot of furniture in the room. The room was full of furniture.
- I don't like sport very much. I'm not very keen on sport.
- We don't have enough time. We're short of time.
- I'm not a very good tennis player. I'm not very good at tennis.
- Catherine's husband is Russian. Catherine is married to a Russian.
- I don't trust Robert. I'm suspicious of Robert.
- My problem is not the same as yours. My problem is different from yours.

131.3 Put in the correct preposition.

- Amy is always full of energy.
- My home town is not a very interesting place. It's not famous for anything.
- Kate is very fond of her younger brother.
- I don't like going up ladders. I'm scared of heights.
- You look bored. You don't seem interested in what I'm saying.
- 'Our flight departs at 10.35.' 'Are you sure of that?'
- I'm not ashamed of what I did. In fact I'm quite proud of it.
- I wanted to go out for a meal, but nobody else was keen on the idea.
- These days everybody is aware of the dangers of smoking.
- The station platform was crowded with people waiting for the train.
- Sue is much more successful than I am. Sometimes I feel a bit jealous of her.
- Do you know anyone who might be interested in buying an old car?
- We've got plenty to eat. The fridge is full of food.
- She's very honest. I don't think she is capable of telling a lie.
- Helen works hard and she's extremely good at her job.
- It's typical of him to change his mind at the last minute.
- Mark has no money of his own. He's totally dependent on his parents.
- We're short of staff in our office at the moment. We need more people to do the work.

131.4 Write sentences about yourself. Are you good at these things or not? Use the following:

- good pretty good not very good hopeless
- (repairing things) I'm not very good at repairing things.
 - (telling jokes) I'm not very good at telling jokes.
 - (maths) I'm not very good at maths.
 - (remembering names) I'm not very good at remembering names.
 - (sport) I'm not very good at sport.

Verb + preposition 1 to and at

Verb + to

talk / speak **TO** somebody (with is also possible but less usual)

- Who was that man you were **talking to**?

listen **TO** ...

- We spent the evening **listening to** music. (not listening music)

apologise **TO** somebody (for ...)

- They **apologised to me** for what happened. (not They apologised me)

explain something **TO** somebody

- Can you **explain this word to me**? (not explain me this word)

explain / describe (to somebody) what/how/why ...

- I **explained to them** why I was worried. (not I explained them)

- Let me **describe to you** what I saw. (not Let me describe you)

We do not use to with these verbs:

phone / call / email / text somebody

- I **called the airline** to cancel my flight. (not called to the airline)

but write (a letter) **to** somebody

answer somebody/something

- He refused to **answer my question**. (not answer to my question)

but reply **to** an email / a letter etc.

ask somebody

- Can I **ask you** a question? (not ask to you)

thank somebody (for something)

- He **thanked me** for helping him. (not He thanked to me)

Verb + at

look / stare / glance **AT** ... , have a look / take a look **AT** ...

- Why are you **looking at** me like that?

laugh **AT** ...

- I look stupid with this haircut. Everybody will **laugh at** me.

aim / point (something) **AT** ... , shoot / fire (a gun) **AT** ...

- Don't **point that knife at** me. It's dangerous.

- We saw someone with a gun **shooting at** birds, but he didn't hit any.

Some verbs can be followed by **at** or **to**, with a difference in meaning. For example:

shout **AT** somebody (when you are angry)

- He got very angry and started **shouting at** me.

shout **TO** somebody (so that they can hear you)

- He **shouted to** me from the other side of the street.

throw something **AT** somebody/something (in order to hit them)

- Somebody **threw an egg at** the minister.

throw something **TO** somebody (for somebody to catch)

- Lisa shouted 'Catch!' and **threw the keys to** me from the window.

Exercises

132.1 Which is correct?

- a Can you explain this word to me?

b Can you explain me this word?
- a I got angry with Mark. Afterwards, I apologised to him.

b I got angry with Mark. Afterwards I apologised him.
- a Amy won't be able to help you. There's no point in asking to her.

b Amy won't be able to help you. There's no point in asking her.
- a I need somebody to explain me what I have to do.

b I need somebody to explain to me what I have to do.
- a They didn't understand the system, so I explained it to them.

b They didn't understand the system, so I explained it them.
- a I like to sit on the beach and listen to the sound of the sea.

b I like to sit on the beach and listen the sound of the sea.
- a I asked them to describe me exactly what happened.

b I asked them to describe to me exactly what happened.
- a We'd better phone the restaurant to reserve a table.

b We'd better phone to the restaurant to reserve a table.
- a It was a difficult question. I couldn't answer to it.

b It was a difficult question. I couldn't answer it.
- a I explained everybody the reasons for my decision.

b I explained to everybody the reasons for my decision.
- a I thanked everybody for all the help they had given me.

b I thanked to everybody for all the help they had given me.
- a My friend texted to me to let me know she was going to be late.

b My friend texted me to let me know she was going to be late.

132.2 Complete the sentences. Use these verbs + the correct preposition:

explain - laugh - listen - look - point - reply - speak - throw - throw

- I look stupid with this haircut. Everybody will laugh at me.
- I don't understand this. Can you explain it to me?
- Sue and Kevin had an argument and now they're refusing to listen each other.
- Be careful with those scissors! Don't point them at me!
- I'm not sure where we are. I'll have to look the map.
- Please speak me! I've got something important to tell you.
- Don't throw stones at the birds! It's cruel.
- If you don't want that sandwich, throw it at the birds. They'll eat it.
- I tried to contact Tina, but she didn't reply my emails.

132.3 Put in to or at.

- They apologised to me for what happened.
- I glanced at my watch to see what time it was.
- Please don't shout at me! Try to calm down.
- I saw Sue as I was cycling along the road. I shouted at her, but she didn't hear me.
- Don't listen to what he says. He doesn't know what he's talking about.
- What's so funny? What are you laughing at?
- Could I have a look at your magazine, please?
- I'm lonely. I need somebody to talk to.
- She was so angry she threw a book at the wall.
- The woman sitting opposite me on the train kept staring at me.
- Can I speak to you a moment? There's something I want to ask you.