

# VERBS FOLLOWED BY PREPOSITION

## 1. On-----

I agree on your plan.

The police had arrived on the scene after the outbreak of fire.

The film is based on an actual event.

## 2. For-----

The beggar begged for money from the passers-by.

I buy a watch for my wife.

I cannot excuse you for such bad manners.

### 3.Of-----

John was accused of committing crimes.

The committee consists of ten members.

I do not approve of women smoking in public places.

### 4.From-----

He borrowed a book from me.

I forbid my daughter from going out late at night.

### 5.In-----

John knows that he has failed in the test.

She persisted in wearing the old-fashioned clothes.

Misunderstanding resulted in a fight.

## 6. With-----

The taxi collided with the bus.

He had coped with all the problems facing him.

He filled the sack with sand.

## 7. About-----

They argued about where they would have their camping.

John is used to boasting about his success.

The refugees complained about the bad living condition.

## 8. At-----

John gazed at me.

Mary smiles at Henry.

The robber snatched at my bag.

## 9.To-----

He refused to comment on this case.

He compared his wife to a lioness.

He devoted all his life to helping the poor.

## 10.By-----

I was convinced by his argument.

He replaces coal by petroleum.

We have replaced the old adding machine by a computer.

## 11.Into-----

The car crashed into the wall.

Hong Kong has developed into a prosperous city.

The robber forced me into giving him money.

## 12. Against--

He claimed damages against the lorry driver.

The citizens protested against the harsh laws.

## 13. After----- I asked after his parents' health.

## 14. Between- Mary had to choose between Henry and Richard.

## 15. Upon----- Don't rely upon him; he is an unreliable person.

## 16. Over----- Let us go over all the points once again.

## 17. Through- Henry got through the HKCEE with good results.

# ADJECTIVE FOLLOWED BY PREPOSITION

Here is a list of examples about the adjectives followed by preposition:

1. The port is vital to supply relief to millions victims.

2. The fresh air is conductive to our health.

3. He is quite enthusiastic about/for swimming.

4. He is optimistic about his future.

5. Is it convenient for you coming?

6. He will be responsible for organizing our class picnic.

7. He was very respectful at home and obedient to his parents.

8. She had not yet become accustomed to the fact that she was a rich woman.

9. Vitamins are beneficial to our health.

10. T-Shirts and jeans are not appropriate for formal dinners.

11. You should be ashamed of what you have done.

12. Some teachers are always blind to the misbehavior of the naughty children.

13. I am busy with my work.

14. He was absorbed in his work.

15. We are now safe from danger.

16. All of us are present at the meeting.



17. We should be polite to our teacher.

18. We should be obedient to our parents.

19. He preferred the company of those who were intellectually inferior to himself.

20. China was short of electricity supply.

# Preposition used with time

**Since** We use **since** to indicate the specific point of time when an event or action begins.

- e.g. 1.They have been living in Shatin **since** 1980.  
2.The fans have been waiting for Jackie **since** 5 o' clock this evening.

**From** We use **from** to indicate the starting time of an event or action.

It is usually used with "**till**" or "**until**".

- e.g. 1.The manager will be in a business meeting **from** 2:30pm **till** 5pm.  
2.Mr. Chan will be at his office **from** nine in the morning **till/until** 5pm.

**For** We use **for** to indicate how long an event or action lasts. We also say: for six years for two hours for a week

- e.g. 1. The Lau family have emigrated to Canada **for** 5 years.  
2. I waited **for** about 30 minutes before going home.

**During** We use **during + noun** to say when something happens (not how long). We also say:

- during the film during our holiday during the night  
e.g. 1. We met a lot of interesting people **during our holiday**.  
2. I will phone you some time **during the afternoon**.

**While** We use **while + subject + verb** to say when something happens.

- e.g. 1. We saw Ann **while we were waiting** for the bus.  
2. **While you were** out, there was a phone call for you.

**By and until** We use **by** to mean not later than. We use **until** to say how long a situation continues.

-You must be home **by** 11 o' clock.

-I'll be here **until** 11 a.m.

Compare: He'll be back **by** Monday.

He'll be away **until** next Monday.

He won't be back **until** next Monday.

## **By the time**

- e.g. 1. It is not worth going shopping now. **By the time we get to the shops**, they will be shut. (=They will shut between now and the time we get there)
2. I am flying to the United States this evening. So **by the time you receive this letter**, I will probably be in New York. (=I will arrive in New York between now and the time you receive this letter.)
3. Tom finally arrived at the party at midnight. But **by then/by that time**, most of the guest had left.

**At** We use **at** with exact point of time and festivals.

e.g. 1.He left home **at 7:15 this morning.**

2.We give each other presents **at Christmas.**

Note: We also use **at** in these phrases:

-at the same time

-at present, at the moment=now

-at lunchtime

-at night/midnight

-at the weekend/at week-ends

-at first, at last

-at dawn/daybreak/sunrise/noon/dusk/sunset

-at the age of

-at Easter

**On** We use **on** with days and dates.

e.g. 1.I'll see you again **on Friday**.

2.Sandi's birthday was **on March 23**.

Note: We also say:

-on Monday morning

-on the evening of October 28

-on one's birthday

-on this occasion

-on the day

-on one's arrival/departure

-on a cold, wet day

-on + gerund (e.g. **On** hearing the news, she collapsed. )

-on Christmas Day

**In** We use in for longer periods of time (for example: months, years, centuries, seasons).

e.g. 1. She was born **in March, 1976.**

Compare: She was born **on March 23, 1976.**

Note: We also say:

-in the morning/afternoon/evening

-in the middle of the night/in the night

-in modern times

-in one's time

-in one's day (e.g. She was a famous actress in her day.)

-in one's absence

-in the presence of (one's friends)

-in the past

-in those days

-in (the) future

Note: We also use **in**:

a) to talk about a period of time in the future.

-I'll be back **in** half an hour.

-They are getting married **in** six months' time.

b) to say how long it takes to do something.

-I finished the novel **in** three days.

Note: We do not use **at**, **on** or **in** before **next**, **last**, **this**, **every**, **all**, **each**, **some**, **any** and **none**.

e.g. 1. We'll meet again **next Friday**.

2. She went to school without breakfast **this morning**.



**In and during** We can use **during** and **in** for a period of time, often with the same meaning.

-It rained heavily **during/in** the night.

In spite of this, we prefer to use **during** for something which continues all through a period.

-My parents stayed in Guangzhou **during** the war.

Besides, we use **during**, **not in**, to refer to an activity (a visit, a meal, etc.)

-She mentioned your name **during** lunch.

**Wrong:** She mentioned your name in lunch.

## **On time and in time**

-Our train arrived **on time**.

-We arrived at the station **in time** to catch our train.

# At the end and in the end

- At the end** of the show, all the actors and actress came out to answer the curtain calls.
- At first the new boy failed in many subjects, but **in the end** he managed to keep up with the rest of the class.

# Nouns followed by preposition

**Of--** take advantage **of** control **of** increase **of**  
empty **of** method **of** use **of**  
chance **of** choice **of** consideration **of**  
take no notice **of** guilty **of**

**For--** demand **for** method **for** regret **for**  
sympathy **for** volunteer **for** qualification **for**

**In--** confidence **in** interest **in** improvement **in**  
make mistake **in** make great progress **in** specialist **in**

**On--** emphasis **on**      mercy **on**      opinion **on**  
make a raid **on**      put the blame **on**

**About--**      opinion **about**

**Against--**      offence **against**      protest **against**  
witness **against**      charge **against**  
prejudice **against**

**Towards--**      behaviour **towards**

# Prepositions of Place

**AT** We use **at** to talk about:

-a specific place

*E.g. She's gone to school. She's probably at school now.*

-public places / institutions / buildings

*E.g. Paul meets his friend at the MTR Station.*

-events

*E.g. I met a new friend at a dinner party on Saturday.*

-parts of a place, with words like back, front, top, bottom and end

*E.g. There was a report at the front page of the newspaper.*

-an exact address

*E.g. Mr. Brown lives at 14 Woodland Avenue.*

**IN** We use **in** to talk about:

**-a country / geographical region**

*E.g. The headquarter of the United Nations in New York.*

**-a city, town, or large space**

*E.g. Peter plays football in the garden.*

**-rooms**

*E.g. There is a big dog in Tom's house.*

**-roads and streets**

*E.g. There was an accident in the street this morning.*

Note: We can often use **in** or **at** the building.

We can stay **in** a hotel or **at** a hotel.

We can eat **in** a restaurant or **at** a restaurant.

**ON** **On** is used as in the following phrases:

on the train	on Hong Kong Island
on Kowloon side	
on the ground / second / top floor	
on the farm / plantation	
on the road	on the ground / floor
on board a ship	on the table
on the River Nile	on the left / right

*E.g. 1) Mr. Chan's office is on the first floor. When you come out of the lift, it's the third door on your left.*

*2) We got struck in a traffic jam on the way to the airport.*

# Prepositional Phrases

The following are some of the examples of Prepositional Phrases:

in front of                      with reference to                      by means of  
   because of                      according to                      instead of

in place of                      in addition to                      owing to  
in spite of                      accompanied by                      out of

## **Examples:**

1.            **Owing to** increased production costs, we are raising our prices this year.
2.            We enjoyed ourselves **in spite of** the bad weather.
3.            This company is now using computers **instead of** the old-fashioned filing system.



4. According to my boss, the price of gold will rise in the next six months.
5. With reference to our conversation this morning, I enclose details of our products.

**Remember:** Some of these prepositional phrases are more often used in **formal** or **business English** than in ordinary conversation.

e.g. **In place of** is a little more formal than **instead of**;  
**owing to** is more formal than **because of**; and  
**with reference to** is only used in formal English.

# Adjective

**Adjective** is a part of speech that describes or tells something about the noun or pronoun with which it is used.

**Adjective** can be formed by adding:

<b>-able (-ible)</b>	reason, eat	reasonable, eatable
<b>-al</b>	nation, emotion	national, emotional
<b>-ar</b>	regulate, single	regular, singular
<b>-ary</b>	imagine	imaginary
<b>-ate</b>	origin	originate
<b>-en</b>	wood, black	wooden, blacken
<b>-ible</b>	flex, response	flexible, responsible

<b>-ic</b>	energy, poet	energetic, poetic
<b>-ish</b>	fool, girl, child	foolish, girlish, childish
<b>-ive</b>	talk, construct	talkative, constructive
<b>-ful</b>	care, cheer	careful, cheerful
<b>-less</b>	fear, peer	fearless, peerless
<b>-ly</b>	love, hour, year	lovely, hourly, yearly
<b>-some</b>	quarrel, trouble	quarrel, troublesome
<b>-ous</b>	caution, poison	cautious, poisonous
<b>-y</b>	health, sleep	healthy, sleepy

## Rules to follow:

1. Adjectives expressing emotion or desire (*sorry, glad, anxious, eager, happy, curious, reluctant, etc.*) are usually followed by an infinitive.

e.g. We shall be happy to accept your offer.

2. Past Participles (*pleased, delighted, surprised, shocked, etc.*) also follow the same pattern.

e.g. She is delighted to hear that you have recovered.

3. Adjectives of personal qualities (*kind, good, bad, nice, naughty, cruel, wise, foolish, generous, etc.*) are used in one of these ways:

You are very kind to ask after my parents.

It is very kind of you to ask after my parents.

How kind of you to ask after my parents!

**Note:** *Of* cannot be replaced by *for*.

4. Impersonal adjectives (*necessary, dangerous, easy, difficult, possible, important, etc*) are usually used in this pattern:

e.g. It is impossible for me to finish the before dark.

**Wrong:** I am impossible to finish the work before dark.

5. Some adjectives such as *ready, fit, sure, certain, able, unable, etc.* are usually followed by infinitives.

The water from this well is not fit to drink.

6. Some adjectives such as *afraid, afloat, alike, asleep, alone, awake, aware, content, etc.* are used after the verb 'to be' only. They cannot be put before a noun to qualify it.

She is a lonely girl.

But: On Sundays she is alone.

7. Some adjectives are out after the nouns.

e.g. His remark made the teacher angry.

8. Some adjectives can also be followed by prepositions.

e.g. Melinda is good at (keen on, interested in, etc.) tennis.

# Adverb

**Adverb** is a part of speech that describes or tells something about a verb, adjective or another adverb.

**Adverbs** are usually formed by adding **-ly** to their corresponding adjectives.

She is a kind woman.

“Let me help you,” she said kindly.

They live a happy life.

They lived happily.

**Notes:** a) Some adverbs have different forms from their corresponding adjectives.

They are good workers.

They work well.

- b) Some adverbs have the same form as their corresponding adjectives.

The industry of that country is developing very fast.

(adverb qualifying the verb is *developing*.)

The industry of that country is developing at a fast pace.

(adjective qualifying the noun *pace*.)

Notes: These adverbs include those of time such as *hourly*, *daily*, *monthly*, etc. and others like *hard*, *straight*, *low*, *long*, *right*, *early*, *dead*, *enough*, etc.

- c) The following words ending in **-ly** are adjectives, not adverbs.  
*friendly*, *lovely*, *lonely*, *homely*, *sickly*

The talks were held in a friendly *atmosphere*.

d) Some adverbs have different meanings when **-ly** is added.

1. Sam is a hard worker. (adjective)

Sam works very hard. (adverb)

Sam hardly ever fails in the tests. (adverb meaning *seldom*)

2. He is not a very near relation of mine. (adjective)

The summer holidays are drawing near. (adverb)

He nearly missed his train yesterday morning. (adverb meaning *almost*)