

# The Ins and Outs of Prepositions

Jean Yates

**A guidebook for ESL students**

*and all others seeking help in correct use of prepositions*



out

over



through



under

between



on



*Analysis of 81 of the most common English language prepositions*

*Practical guidelines for correct usage*

*Hundreds of examples that place prepositions in familiar contexts*

**ESL EASY TO USE**

# The Ins and Outs of Prepositions

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by Jean Yates





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# INTRODUCTION

Prepositions pose more problems for the speaker or learner of English than any other word. Why? Prepositions are just little words that are small in form; they are pronounced softly, in one or two syllables; they aren't even given capital letters or titles; native speakers choose the correct preposition without thinking. How can they be so confusing?

The word "preposition" has a straightforward meaning: a word placed before a noun or pronoun to

relationship with another word in the sentence. For the learner of English, however, prepositions are not straightforward.

—Prepositions are difficult, if not impossible, to translate without using other prepositions.

Example:

In the sentence, "The book is on the table," what does the word "on" mean?

On means "*above* and supported *by*."

—In no other language are the prepositions of English all) the exact equivalents of English prepositions.

Example:

*Spanish*  
Vive en Washington.

Vive en la Avenida New Jersey.

El está en el aeropuerto.

Estoy pensando en ti.

*English*  
He lives in Wa:

He lives on Ne

He is at the air

I am thinking a

I am thinking o

—Many preposition words can also be a conjunctions.

Examples:

the preposition down

the adverb down

the preposition after

the conjunction after

She walked do

He put the boo

She took a nap

She went outsi

book down.

—Many prepositions can indicate more than one relationship.

Examples with after:

later than

in pursuit of

because of

in the style of

continuously

We rested after

The cat is after

He was angry

This is a painting

She worked night

# **PART ONE— THE PREPOSITIONS**

## How to Use Part One

Each definition of a preposition is followed by one or more *patterns*, which indicate the word order appropriate for the definition.

The verbs in each pattern can be changed to other tenses.

**Example:**

**Pattern: verb + toward + noun**

*The money goes toward helping the family.*

This could also be:

*The money went toward helping the family.*

*The money will go toward helping the family.*

*The money is going to go toward helping the family.*

When a word cannot be substituted, that word is included in the pattern.

**Example:**

**Pattern:** *be* + after + noun

*The reception is after the wedding.*

*be* is the only possible verb for this pattern.

When a word is optional, it is in parentheses.

**Example:**

**Pattern:** *be* + outside (of) + noun

*The dog is outside the house.*

*The dog is outside of the house.*

When the word *noun* is in the pattern,

use the normal patterns for noun usage, as outlined in Part Three.

### **Example:**

**Pattern: verb + against + noun**

*Dr. Jones is against the idea.*

This could also be:

*Dr. Jones is against my idea.*

*Dr. Jones is against this idea.*

*Dr. Jones is against our ideas.*

*Dr. Jones is against some of their ideas.*

When the noun determiner cannot be substituted, it is included in the

pattern.

## **Example:**

**Pattern: verb + against + the + noun**

*We sailed against the wind for an hour.*

(*the* cannot be replaced by *a*, *this*, *my*, or any other word)

1—

## About

1 **About** identifies a **topic**.

**Pattern 1: noun + *be* + about + noun**

*This book is about prepositions.*

Nouns commonly used before about:

**argument, article, book,  
conversation, disagreement,  
discussion, joke, lecture, movie,**

**news, play, program, report, speech,  
story**

**Pattern 2: noun + about + noun**

*She gave me advice about my loan.*

Nouns commonly used before about:  
**assurance, complaint, comment,  
gossip, lie, question, statement, truth**

**Pattern 3: verb + about + noun**

*He often talks about his job.*

Verbs commonly used before about:  
**agree, argue, brag, care, complain,  
cry, do, dream, forget, groan, hear,  
joke, know, laugh, lie, moan, pray,**

**read, say, scream, sing, talk, think,  
wonder, worry, yell**

## **Expressions:**

to see about—

1. to delay a decision until more  
information is known

*We want to buy a house, but we will  
see about that later.*

2. to get information about

*I called that office to see about  
getting a job there.*

to find out about—to get information

about

*She called the school to find out about her daughter's behavior.*

**Pattern 4: verb + noun + about**

*She knows something about airplanes.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:  
**ask, find out, know, learn, say**

Typical nouns used before about:  
**a little, a lot, quite a bit, nothing, something, very little**

**Pattern 5: verb + indirect object + about + noun**

*They asked me about my trip.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**advise, ask, bother, contact, harass, question, remind, teach, tell, write**

**Pattern 6: adjective + about + noun**

*They were very kind about our late arrival.*

Adjectives commonly used before about:

**charming, kind, nasty, nice, mean, rude, sweet, understanding, unkind**

**2 About** can identify the **cause of an**

**emotion or condition.**

**Pattern: adjective + about + noun**

***We are excited about our vacation.***

2—

**Above**

1 **Above** can mean **in or at a higher place**.

**Pattern 1: *be* + above + noun**

*A dark cloud was above the house.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + above + noun**

*Let's hang the picture above the*

*sofa.*

Verbs commonly used before **above**:  
**arrange, carry, hang, hold, keep,**  
**place, put, set**

2 **Above** can mean **at a higher level, value, or rank.**

*Her blood pressure is above normal.*

*The children in her class are all above average.*

*In the navy, a captain is above a commander.*

3 **Above** (adverb) can indicate something **written earlier** in a book, article, or other document.

*Please see the instructions above.*

4 **Above** (adjective) describes something written earlier.

*Please follow the above instructions.*

5 **Above** indicates that a person is **too good** to commit the stated negative action.

**Pattern 1: *be* + above + noun**

*The policeman is above cruelty.*

Nouns often used after above:

**cruelty, dishonesty, meanness, perjury, theft, murder, treason**

**Pattern 2: *be* + above + verb in gerund form**

*He may be poor, but he is above stealing.*

Gerunds often used with this meaning:  
**breaking the law, cheating,  
gossiping, lying, robbing, snooping,  
stealing**

## **6 Expressions**

up above (adverb)—in heaven

*Our dear grandmother is now in peace up above.*

above and beyond the call of duty—

action that is more or greater than what is expected of a person

***My teacher's help after school was above and beyond the call of duty.***

above board—completely honest and open

***Our negotiations with the company were above board.***

above the law—exempt from restrictions of the law

***People in power sometimes believe they are above the law.***

3—

## Across

1 **Across** indicates the direction of movement from one side of an area to the other.

**Pattern: motion verb + across + noun**

*The girl ran across the yard.*

Verbs often used before across:  
**crawl, drive, go, limp, move, ride,**

**run, swim, walk**

**2 Across** can mean **on the other side** of a place.

**Pattern: verb + across + noun**

My friend lives across the street.

**3 Across from** means **opposite or facing**.

**Pattern 1: verb + across from + noun**

*My assistant's office is across from mine.*

*My secretary sits across from me.*

**Pattern 2: verb + across + noun +  
from + noun**

*My assistant's office is across the  
hall from mine.*

**4 Across and all across mean in every  
area of.**

*People across the world are using  
the Internet.*

*There is a heat wave all across the  
country.*

**Expression:**

across the board—including everyone  
or everything

*Everyone got a raise in salary: there*

*was a wage increase of three percent across the board.*

## 5 Phrasal verbs

come across (nonseparable)—find something unexpectedly

*I came across this old picture of you when I was looking for some documents.*

come across (intransitive)—be received by an audience

*The banquet speaker was not sure how well he came across.*

run across (nonseparable)—to find

something unexpectedly  
*I ran across a letter you wrote to me  
when we were children.*

get (something) across to (separable)  
—make something understood

*The young girl tried to get it across  
to her boyfriend that she was not  
ready to get married.*

4—

## After

1 **After** means **later than** or **following**.

**Pattern 1:** *be* + **after** + **noun**

*The reception is after the wedding ceremony.*

**Pattern 2:** **after** + **gerund form of verb** + **noun**

*After finishing your homework, you can watch television.*

**Pattern 3: after (conjunction) + subject noun + verb**

*After you finish your homework, you can watch television.*

**Pattern 4: verb + after (conjunction) + subject noun + verb**

*The boss left after I came in.*

**2 After can mean lower in value or rank.**

*That school's athletes placed after ours in the playoffs.*

**3 After** can mean **in pursuit of**.

**Pattern:** verb + after + noun

*The cat ran after the mouse.*

Verbs often used before after:

**be, come, go, run**

**4 After** can mean **because of**.

**Pattern:** adjective . . . + after + noun

*He was mad at her after her behavior at the party.*

Typical nouns used after after:

**attitude, behavior, failure, kindness, manners, outburst, reaction, success**

**5 After** can mean **in spite of**.

**Pattern:** after + verb in gerund form  
*They never got married, after dating for years.*

*After reading this article three times, I still don't understand it.*

**6 After** can mean **in the style of**.

**Pattern:** noun + after + noun  
*The school play was a drama after Shakespeare.*

**7 After** can indicate **continuously**.

**Pattern: time period + after + same time period**

*The man waited night after night for his telephone to ring.*

*Life got harder year after year.*

*His mother told him time after time to clean up his room.*

Nouns often used with this meaning:

**day, hour, month, night, time, week, year**

## 5—

### Against

1 **Against** means **touching** something or somebody for support.

**Pattern 1: verb + against + noun**

*The man was leaning against his car.*

Typical verbs used before against:  
**hang, lean, lie, rest, sleep**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + against + noun**

*They held the mirror against the wall.*

Typical verbs used before against:  
**butt, hold, keep, lay, lean, place, pull, put, rest, set**

**2 Against means touching forcibly.**

**Pattern: noun + verb + against + noun**

*The rain beat against the window.*

Verbs often used before against:  
**bang, beat, crash, crush, heave, hit,**

**knock, push, splash, throw, thrust**

**3 Against** means **in opposition to**.

**Pattern: noun + verb + against + noun**

*The mayor was against the idea of a new day-care center.*

*Stealing is against the law.*

*Our senator voted against that bill.*

Typical verbs used before against:  
**act, argue, campaign, debate, fight, go, move, play, vote, work**

Nouns often used after against:  
**action, bill, concept, enemy, force,**

**idea, law, nomination, orders, plan,  
precepts, principles, proposal,  
regulations, religion, rules,  
suggestion, teachings, team, wishes**

**4 Against can mean toward a force in  
the opposite direction.**

**Pattern: verb + against + the + noun**  
*Sailing was rough yesterday; we  
sailed against the wind all day.*

Typical verbs used before against:  
**drive, fight, go, move, run, sail,  
struggle, swim, walk**

Nouns often used after against:

**current, flow, force, tide, wind**

**Expression:**

against traffic—

*I drive against traffic because I live in the city and I work in the suburbs.*

**5 Against** can mean **to the disadvantage of.**

**Pattern:** noun + *be* + **against** + noun

*You may not get that job because your age is against you.*

6—

## Ahead Of

1 **Ahead of** means **closer to a destination than** or **in front of**.

*My friend arrived first, and was ahead of me in line.*

2 **Ahead of** means **before**.

*You are in a hurry; please go ahead of me.*

**3 Ahead of** can mean **more advanced than.**

*Because he was absent for two weeks, the other students in his class are ahead of him.*

#### **4 Phrasal verbs**

get ahead (intransitive)—succeed

*She has struggled all her life to get ahead.*

get ahead of (nonseparable)—advance faster or further than someone else

*They are rivals, always competing to get ahead of each other.*

go ahead (intransitive)—Do it; begin  
now

*I asked for permission, and they told  
me to go ahead.*

7—

## Along

1 **Along** means **following the boundary** of something.

**Pattern:** verb + **along** + noun

*We walked along the water's edge at the beach last night.*

Typical verbs before along:

**jog, stroll, run, walk**

## 2 **Along with** means **together**.

**Pattern: verb + along with + noun**

*He used to sing along with me.*

Typical verbs used before along with:  
**hum, play, run, sing, walk, work**

## 3 **Expressions**

all along (adverb)—the whole past time

*They have been enemies all along.*

## 4 **Phrasal verbs**

get along (intransitive)—live together  
in harmony

*She and her old roommate didn't get  
along.*

get along with (nonseparable)—to live  
in harmony with someone

*I hope she gets along with her new  
roommate.*

8—

## Among

1 **Among** can mean **surrounded by**.

**Pattern: verb + among + plural  
(three or more) noun**

*They camped in the woods among  
the trees.*

2 **Among** can mean **with each other**.

**Pattern: verb + among + plural  
(three or more) noun**

*The children quarreled among themselves.*

Typical verbs before among:  
**argue, celebrate, debate, discuss  
something, fight, play, share  
something, talk**

**3 Among can mean to the individuals  
in a group.**

**Pattern: verb + among + plural  
(three or more) noun**

*They distributed the flyers among the students.*

Typical verbs before among:  
**distribute, hand out, pass out**

4 **Among** can mean **included in a group**.

*Your friends are among the survivors.*

5 **Among** can indicate **many of a group**.

*Latin dancing is popular among the college students.*

9—

## **Around**

1 **Around** means **following a boundary, in a circular direction.**

**Pattern: motion verb + around + noun**

*We walked around the block.*

Verbs commonly used before around:  
**drive, fly, race, ride, run, skip, travel, walk**

Nouns commonly used after around:  
**block, building, house, room, track, world**

2 **Around** (adverb) indicates movement in a circular direction in place.

**Pattern: verb + around (on)**  
*The earth spins around on its axis as it travels around the sun.*

Typical verbs used before around:  
**spin, turn, whirl**

Expressions:

1. **turn around** (adverb)—face the opposite direction

*You are going east; to go west, you have to turn around.*

2. **turn something around** (adverb)—reverse the position of something

*Turn your chair around and talk to me.*

3 **Around** means **enclosing**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + around + noun**

*The teacher drew a circle around each mistake.*

*The rancher put a rope around the cow's neck.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**draw, fasten, put, tie, wrap**

4 **(All) around** means **in all areas of**.

*There is crime all around this city.*

5 **(All) around** can mean **on all sides of**.

*People were screaming all around me.*

**6 Around** means **on another side of**.

*The bank is around the corner.*

*Their farm is just around the bend.*

**Expressions:**

1. **around back**—at the back of a building

*Go around back to pick up your merchandise.*

2. **go around the bend**—be crazy  
*I am so busy, I think I am going around the bend.*



**10—**

**As**

**1 As means in the role of.**

**Pattern 1: verb + as + noun**

*She is a trained teacher, but she works as a secretary in our office.*

Typical verbs used before as:

**act, serve, substitute, volunteer,  
work**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + as + noun**

*We have selected you as the captain of the team.*

Typical verbs:

**choose, elect, nominate, pick, select, use**

## **2 Expression**

as for me—regarding me

*They all went to the movies; as for me, I stayed home.*

**11—**

**At**

1 **At** can indicate **location**

**Pattern 1: at + the + place within a city or town**

*The women are at the supermarket.*

Nouns commonly used with this pattern:

**apartment, bus stop, factory, hospital, hotel, house, mall, office,**

**park, parking lot, restaurant,  
station, store, theater, university**

**Pattern 2: at + an address**

*She lives at 3757 North 52nd Street,  
apartment 10.*

*You can contact him by e-mail,*

*@xyz.com*

(The symbol @ is pronounced "at.")

**Pattern 3: at + the + place within  
another place**

*He was waiting in the room at the  
door.*

*He likes to sit in her apartment at  
the window facing the park.*

Nouns commonly used with this pattern:

**counter, desk, table, window**

2 **At** indicates a **place of attendance**.

**Pattern 1: *be + at + Ø place or meal of regular attendance***

*The children are at school.*

*We aren't allowed to watch television when we are at dinner.*

Nouns used with this pattern:

**church, class, home, practice, school, work**

**breakfast, lunch, dinner**

## **Pattern 2: *be* + *at* + noun of event**

*They are at the movies.*

*She is at a meeting.*

Nouns commonly used with this pattern:

**breakfast, brunch, celebration, concert, conference, dance, debate, dinner, forum, function, funeral, game, lecture, luncheon, meeting, movies, parade, party, play, program, reading, reunion, show, wedding**

**3 At can indicate in the direction of; toward.**

**Pattern 1: verb + at + noun**

*The teacher smiled at the new girl.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**aim, frown, glare, grab, grin, growl, hit, howl, laugh, leer, look, rush, shoot, shout, slap, smile, snatch, stare, swear, swing, wink, yell**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + at + noun**

*The small boy threw a rock at the window.*

Typical verbs:

**swing, throw, toss**



12—

## **Back to/Back From**

1 **Back to** indicates **return**.

**Pattern 1: verb + back to + noun of place or time**

*Please go back to the beginning of your story.*

*The children went back to the museum to see the new exhibit.*

Verbs often used before back to:

**crawl, drive, fly, go, hark, jump,  
look, move, race, run, think, walk**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + back to +  
noun**

*We took the train back to the city.*

Typical verbs:

**bring, carry, drive, push, pull, take**

**2 Back from** indicates **return to a  
starting place from a different place.**

**Pattern: verb + back from + noun of  
place**

*I'll be back (home) from the store in  
about ten minutes.*

*We can't leave until your mother gets back from her trip.*

Typical verbs before back from:  
**be, come, drive, fly, get, move, run, walk**

**3 Back** indicates a **return of something**.

**Pattern 1: verb + noun + back (+ to + noun)**

*Please give this plate back to your mother.*

*I took the dress back to the store because it didn't fit.*

Typical verbs:

**bring, give, pay, send, take**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + back (+  
from + noun)**

*Please get my suit back from the  
cleaners.*

**Pattern 3: verb + noun + back  
(adverb)**

*I called you back when I got home.*

Typical verbs:

**call, bring, pay, put, take**

**4 Phrasal verbs**

get back (intransitive)—move out of the way

*We wanted to see the action, but they made us get back.*

get back to someone (nonseparable)—call someone with new information

*As soon as I know the figures, I will get back to you.*

get back at someone (nonseparable)—do harm in return for a wrong

*After he was fired, he tried to get back at his boss.*

13—

## Before

1 **Before** means **earlier than**.

*We must leave before four o'clock.*

2 **Before** can mean **in a more important position than**.

*She is so ambitious that she puts her job before her family.*

3 **Before** can mean **facing**.

*The handsome singer had many adoring fans before him.*

**4 Before** can mean **in the future**.  
*The bride smiled as she thought of the happiness before her.*

**5 Before** can mean **in the presence of**.  
*I was told to appear before the judge.*

14—

## Behind

1 **Behind** means **in the rear of**.

*The trash can is behind the chair.*

*My friend sits behind me in class.*

2 **Behind** can mean **less advanced than**.

*Miss Thompson's class is studying lesson three; the other classes are studying*

*Lesson four. Miss Thompson's class*

*is behind the other classes.*

3 **Behind** can mean **left in the past.**

*He is rich now; all his financial problems are behind him.*

4 **Behind** can mean **late.**

**Expressions:**

1. behind schedule—later than usual

*The train is behind schedule.*

2. behind in payments—late in making a regular payment

*She is always behind in her rent payments.*

**5 Behind** can mean **encouraging or supporting**.

**Pattern:** noun + behind + noun

*The successful man had an ambitious woman behind him.*

*Those candidates have a lot of money behind them.*

*There must be a greedy person behind this scheme.*

Typical nouns after behind:

**a person or people**

**idea, plan, plot, project, scheme**

**6 Expressions**

behind the scenes—not seen

*The lawyer knew all the facts about the case; he had a lot of help behind the scenes.*

behind the times—old-fashioned

*Her dad still uses a typewriter; he is really behind the times.*

**15—**

**Below**

**1 Below means lower in number or degree than.**

*Your body temperature is ninety-seven degrees; it is below normal, which is ninety-eight point six.*

**2 Below can mean lower in rank or level than.**

*In our company the supervisors are below the directors.*

*Our offices are on the fourth floor; theirs are below ours, on the third floor.*

**3 Below** can mean **farther along than**.  
*There is a picnic ground just below the bridge.*

#### **4 Expression**

below the belt—unfairly, not according to the rules

*He pretended to be her friend, then applied for her job. That was really below the belt.*



16—

## **Beneath**

1 **Beneath** means **under and concealed by.**

*My glasses were beneath the newspaper.*

*The daffodils sprouted beneath the snow.*

2 **Beneath** can mean **less worthy than.**

*Now that she is rich and famous, she*

*thinks her family is beneath her.*

**3 Beneath** can mean **unlikely**,  
because of **goodness or pride**.

**Pattern 1: it + *be* + beneath + noun  
of person + infinitive**

*She was a little wild, but it was  
beneath her to commit a crime.*

Typical verbs after beneath:

**break the law, commit adultery,  
commit a crime, commit perjury,  
gossip, lie, murder, steal**

**Pattern 2: noun/gerund form of verb  
+ *be* + beneath + person**

*She was a little wild, but committing a crime was beneath her.*

Typical nouns before be beneath:  
**adultery, breaking the law,  
committing a crime, forgery, lying,  
murder, stealing**

17—

## Beside

1 **Beside** means **next to**.

**Pattern: verb + beside + noun**

*Please come over here and sit beside me.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**be, kneel, lie (down), rest, sit (down), sleep, stand, walk, work**

## 2 Expressions

beside the point—irrelevant

*He always wastes time at our meetings by talking about things that are beside the point.*

beside oneself—extremely agitated

*My mother is beside herself because she doesn't know where my brother is.*

18—

## Besides

1 **Besides** means **excepting**.

*Everyone besides me is at the beach.*

2 **Besides** means **in addition to**.

*Besides all of my friends, all of their brothers and sisters are there, too.*

19—

## Between

1 **Between** indicates **separation of two things.**

**Pattern:** noun + **between** + noun

*My neighbor and I built a fence  
between our backyards.*

2 **Between** can show **connection of two places.**

*Route 395 goes between New York and Washington.*

3 **Between** can indicate a **choice of**.

**Pattern: verb + between + noun + and + noun**

*You can have only one dessert, so please decide between cake and ice cream.*

Verbs often used before between:  
**choose, decide, judge, pick, select**

4 **Between** means **not lower or higher in number**.

*We have saved between three and*

*four thousand dollars.*

*It is hot today. It must be between eighty and eighty-five degrees.*

**5 Between** means **from a time to another time.**

*She will be away all weekend, so don't call her between Friday night and Monday morning.*

**6 Between** can mean **shared by.**

*We are on a diet, so we will have one piece of cake between us.*

*They only had five dollars between them.*

**7 Between** can mean **together.**

*The newlyweds painted their new house between them.*

## 8 Expressions

between you and me—confidentially  
*I don't like to spread gossip, but between you and me, they got married last week.*

in between (adverb)—between, but not followed by an object.

*He isn't old or young; he is in between.*

20—

## Beyond

1 **Beyond** means **on the other side of**.  
*Our street is beyond the traffic light.*  
*If you are traveling west, New Mexico is beyond Texas.*

2 **Beyond** means **past the limits of**.

**Pattern 1:** *be* + **beyond** + noun  
*The sick child was beyond help.*

*That situation is beyond my understanding.*

**Expression:**

beyond one—not understandable by someone

*This puzzle is beyond me.*

*That technical article was beyond him.*

**Pattern 2: *be* + adjective + beyond + noun**

*The palace was beautiful beyond description.*

Nouns commonly used after beyond:  
**belief, comprehension, help,**

salvation, saving, understanding,  
one's wildest dreams

3 **Beyond** can mean **later than**.

**Pattern:** beyond + noun

*The guests were having so much fun that they stayed well beyond midnight. In this town nothing is open beyond ten o'clock.*

4 **Expressions**

beyond the pale—totally unacceptable  
*His rude jokes at that formal reception were beyond the pale.*

the great beyond (adverb)—heaven

*She said there would be perfect  
peace in the great beyond.*

**21—**

**But**

1 **But** means **except**.

*She works every day but Friday.*

22—

**By**

1 **By** indicates an **actor, instrument,**  
or **cause**

**Pattern: be + past participle + by +  
noun**

*The work was done by a carpenter.*

*The mark was made by a hammer.*

*The damage was caused by the  
storm.*

2 **By** means **following the boundary of something; along**

*They walked by the side of the road.*

3 **By** indicates a **method** or **way**.

**Pattern:** verb + (noun) + **by** + noun

*She made a little money by begging.*

*We sent the letter by air mail.*

*They went to the mountains by Route 66.*

4 **By** can mean **according to** a form, period of time, packaging, weight, number, or amount

**Pattern:** verb + (noun) + **by** + **the** +

**noun**

*He makes his decisions by the rules.*

*She charges by the hour.*

*We buy eggs by the dozen.*

Typical nouns after by the:

**day, hour, month, week**

**job, piece**

**bag, barrel, box, bucket, bushel, cup,**

**drop, gallon, ounce, pint, pound,**

**quart, ream, tablespoonful,**

**teaspoonful**

**5 By** can mean **not later than**.

*You must be here by six A.M. sharp.*

*I'm worried; they should have arrived by now.*

## **Expression:**

by the time—when

*By the time you get up, I'll be in New York.*

6 **By** means **near** or **next to**.

*His desk is by mine.*

*I hope you will stay by me.*

7 **By** indicates **multiplication**, **division**, and **square measurement**.

*We multiplied four by three. ( $4 \times 3 = 12$ )*

*They divided ten by two. ( $10 \div 2 = 5$ )*

*That room measures ten feet by twelve feet. It measures 120 square feet.*



23—

## Close To

1 **Close to** means **near**.

*Your house is close to the metro station.*

*They are sitting close to each other.*

2 **Close to** indicates a **very friendly** or **intimate relationship**.

*She is very close to her older sister.*

3 **Close to** (adverb) can mean **almost**.  
*I wrote close to fifty invitations this morning.*

24—

## Despite/In Spite Of

1 **Despite** indicates **an illogical occurrence**.

*We had a good time despite the bad weather.*

2 **In spite of** has the same meaning and usage as despite.

*We had a good time in spite of the bad weather.*



**25—**

**Down**

**1 Down indicates movement from a higher place.**

**Pattern: noun + verb + down + noun**  
*The rocks rolled down the mountain.*

Typical verbs used before down:  
**come, fall, go, move, roll, run, slide, walk**

**2 Down** means **following the way of;**  
**along**

**Pattern 1: noun + verb + down +  
noun**

*The old man went down the road on  
foot.*

Typical verbs used before down:  
**come, drive, go, move, run, skate,  
walk**

**Pattern 2: noun + verb + noun +  
down + noun**

*The boys rode their bikes down the  
street this morning.*

Typical verbs before down:

**bring, carry, drive, move, pull, push,  
ride, take**

Typical nouns after down:

**freeway, highway, path, road,  
sidewalk, street, turnpike**

**3 Down indicates destruction.**

**Pattern 1: noun + verb + down +  
noun**

*The intruder broke down the door.*

Typical verbs used before down:

**blow, break, bring, burn, cut, strike,  
take**

## **Pattern 2: verb + noun + down**

*The intruder broke the door down.*

## **4 Expression**

upside down—turned so that the bottom is on top

*The cups go in the dishwasher upside down.*

## **5 Phrasal verbs**

back down (intransitive)—retreat

*The dog backed down when I called his name.*

calm down (separable)—soothe;  
tranquilize

*We had to calm the children down  
after the excitement.*

close down (separable)—stop  
business activity, temporarily or  
permanently

*We close the shop down at four  
o'clock every day.  
They plan to close that business  
down for good.*

come down with (nonseparable)—  
become sick

*She missed the picnic because she  
came down with the flu.*

crack down on (nonseparable)—  
impose restrictions

*The police are cracking down on  
street violence.*

26—

## **During**

1 **During** indicates **within a period of time.**

*We slept during the day.*

*They practiced basketball during the summer.*

2 **During** means **at the same time as another event.**

*I slept during the football game.*

*They lived in the north during the*

***war.***

27—

## Except

1 **Except** means **excluding**.

*Everyone went to the movies except me.*

*We work every day except Sunday.*

28—

## Far From

1 **Far (away) from** indicates a **great distance between places or people.**

*Their office isn't far (away) from here.*

*His sister moved far from home a long time ago.*

2 **Far from** (adverb) can mean **not.**

**Pattern: far from + adjective**

*His wife is far from perfect.*

Adjectives often used with this pattern:

**ideal, perfect, wonderful**

## 29— For

1 **For** indicates a **recipient** or **beneficiary**.

**Pattern 1: noun + for + noun**  
*I have a present for you.*

Nouns often used before for:  
**answer, cure, gift, idea, job, message, letter, plan, present, project, question, suggestion,**

**surprise, secret**

**Pattern 2: noun + for +  $\emptyset$  noun**

*We have news for you.*

Typical nouns before for:

**advice, help, information, news,  
nothing, something**

**Pattern 3: verb + noun + for + noun**

*She sang a song for me.*

*He only wants the best for you.*

Verbs often used before for:

**bake, build, buy, care, cook, create,  
dance, design, do, get, make,  
perform, play, sing, want, win, work,**

**write**

**2 For** indicates **a special purpose.**

**Pattern 1: noun + for + noun**

*You need a coat for winter.*

*He has a bicycle for transportation.*

**Pattern 2: noun + for + verb in gerund form**

*They have a special place for washing cars.*

*The doctor has a machine for measuring blood pressure.*

**Expression:**

room for—enough space for something

or somebody

*We need room for twenty people for our party.*

*We don't have room for a grand piano.*

3 **For** can indicate the **intended result** of an action.

**Pattern 1: verb + for + noun**

*The boys were screaming for help.*

*What are you looking for?*

Verbs often used before for:

**apply, ask, audition, beg, call, campaign, compete, cry, fight, go out, go, hope, long, look, petition,**

**plead, pray, register, run, scream,  
send, shop, shout, stand in line,  
strive, study, train, try out, wait,  
whistle, wish, work, yell**

**Expression:**

run for office—be a candidate in an election

*After he ran for president and lost, he said he would never run for office again.*

**30—**

**From**

1 **From** indicates a **source**.

**Pattern 1: verb + from + noun**

*Tony is from Alabama.*

*I hear from him every week.*

Verbs commonly used before from:

**be, call, come, derive, hear**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + from + noun**

*We get help from our neighbors.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**borrow, bring, buy, collect, copy, get, mail, obtain, receive, send**

**2 From** indicates a **point of departure**.

**Pattern: verb + from + noun (place)**  
*The ship sailed from San Francisco.*  
*Please start from the beginning.*

Typical verbs:

**begin, depart, drive, fly, go,  
graduate, move, read, sail, start  
(over), take off**

**3 From can indicate separation.**

**Pattern 1: verb + away + from +  
noun**

*We ran away from the building.*

*Keep away from the crowd.*

Typical verbs before away from:  
**drive, get, keep, move, run, walk**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + from +  
noun**

*We collected the papers from the*

*students.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**borrow, buy, chase, collect, delete, dissociate, eliminate, erase, expel, hide, keep (away), protect, release, remove, save, scare (away), separate, shield, steal, subtract, take (away)**

**4 From can indicate difference.**

**Pattern 1: number + from + number**  
*Three from nine equals six.*

**Pattern 2: number + noun of time of**

**distance + from**

*He lives five miles from here.*

*They are only twenty minutes (away)  
from the city.*

*I will see you two weeks from today.*

**Expressions:**

be different from

*My sweater is different from yours.*

31—

**In**

1 **In** indicates **location inside** or **within** s

**Pattern 1: verb + in + noun**

*We live in that house.*

*The pencils are in the box.*

Nouns commonly used after in:

Geographical areas:

*city, continent, country, state, town*  
*He lives in Seattle, Washington, in the*

Comfortable, protected places:  
**alcove, large chair, cocoon, nest**  
*He sat down in the chair and read his*

Inside areas:  
**attic, balcony, basement, building, corner  
room**  
*She is in her office, in that building, in*

Vehicles where the passengers cannot walk  
**car, canoe, helicopter, small airplane, s**  
*We went in the car, but they went in a*

Publications and speeches  
**article, book, dictionary, encyclopedia,**

**newspaper, speech**

*He didn't say that in his speech, but I r*

**Pattern 2: be + in + ø noun**

*He can't come to the phone because he*

Nouns commonly used after in:

**bed, church, class, jail, place, school, to**

**Pattern 3: verb + noun + in + noun**

*Put the pencils in the box.*

Typical verbs:

**drop, get, insert, lay, place, push, put**

Typical nouns:

**bag, box, drawer, file, folder, notebook**

## wallet

2 **In** indicates **membership** of a group or

**Pattern:** *be* + noun + **in** + noun

*There are seven people in our family.*

*Your brother is the expert in that office.*

Nouns commonly used after in:

**association, category, choir, chorus, club,  
group, office, society, sorority**

3 **In** can indicate a **period of time**.

**Pattern:** *be* + **in** + time period

century in + the

*She was born in the 19th*

32—

## **In Back Of**

1 **In back of** means located **behind**.

**Pattern 1: noun + in back of + noun**

*There is a beautiful tree in back of our house.*

**Pattern 2: verb + in back of + noun**

*Your sister sits in back of me in class.*



33—

## In Front Of

1 **In front of** means located **before** or **facing** something.

**Pattern 1: noun + in front of + noun**  
*There is a van in front of their house.*

**Pattern 2: verb + in front of + noun**  
*The teacher usually stands in front*

*of the class.*

*He was in front of me in line.*

**2 In front of can mean in the future.**

*She has a lot of problems in front of her.*

34—

## Inside

1 **Inside** means **within** something else.

**Pattern:** verb + noun + **inside** + noun

*There are some little toy animals  
inside the box.*

*She put the money inside the  
envelope.*

2 **Inside** (adverb) means **indoors**,  
within a building.

*It started to rain, so we went inside.*

35—

## Instead Of

1 **Instead of** means **substituting for**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + instead of + noun**

*They went to Hawaii instead of South America.*

*She cooks a lot of vegetables instead of meat.*



36—

## Into

1 **Into** indicates **entrance**.

**Pattern 1: verb + into + noun**

*We went into his office.*

*I drive into the city every day.*

Typical verbs before into:

**blow, break, come, drive, fall, fly,  
gaze, get, go, look, move, walk, run,  
sail, stare, stomp, storm**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + into + noun**  
*She poured the juice into the glass.*

Verbs often used with this pattern:  
**blow, cram, drive, get, move, place,  
pour, put, set, throw**

**2 Into** can indicate **forced contact**.

**Pattern: verb + into + noun**  
*That car crashed into a tree.*

Verbs often used before into:  
**crash, push, pull, run, smash, tear**

## **Expression:**

to run something into the ground—to talk about something too much

*We are sick of hearing about his job; he really runs it into the ground.*

**3 Into** can indicate **division**.

**Pattern 1: number + into + number = number**

*Three into twelve equals four.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + into + (number) + noun**

*She cut the pie into eight wedges.*

*The vase broke into a million pieces.*

Typical verbs before into:

**arrange, break, cut, divide, separate**

Typical nouns after into:

**bits, parts, pieces, slices, wedges**

**4 Into** can indicate a **change in condition or form.**

**Pattern 1: go/get + into +  $\emptyset$  noun**

*They went into debt after the accident.*

*He always gets into trouble at school.*

Nouns often used after go into:

**action, bankruptcy, debt**

Nouns used after get into:

**danger, condition, shape, trouble**

37—

**Like**

1 **Like** can mean **similar to**.

**Pattern:** *be, look, seem* + **like** + **noun**

*She is like her sister.*

*They don't look like their mother.*

2 **Like** can indicate **similar behavior**.

**Pattern:** **verb** + **like** + **noun**

*He talks like his father.*

*She swims like a duck.*

Common verbs before like:

**act, behave, play, sing, talk, walk**

3 **Like** can describe excessive behavior.

**Pattern 1: verb + noun + like + abstract noun**

*She spends money like water.*

Nouns commonly used with this meaning:

**anything, fun, water**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + like + adjective**

*He dances like crazy.*

*She works like mad.*

**4 Like** can indicate an **example**.

**Pattern: noun + like + noun**

*They grow root vegetables, like beets, carrots, radishes, and turnips.*

**5 Like** can mean **characteristic of**.

**Pattern: be + like + noun + to + verb**

*It's not like you to complain.*



38—

**Near**

1 **Near** means **close to** in terms of distance.

*His house is near his office.*

*She lives near San Francisco.*

2 **Near** means **within a short time**.

*His birthday is near Thanksgiving.*

**39—**

## **Next To**

1 **Next to** means **at the side of**.

*Her best friend sits next to her at the table.*

*I will put my things in the basket next to yours.*

## 40— Of

1 **Of** indicates **belonging** or **connection**.

a. Of identifies a thing as a connection or **part of another thing**.

**the pages of the book**  
**the leaves of the tree**

b. Of identifies people, animals,

or plants as **part of a larger group.**

**Pattern: noun + of + this/that + noun**

**the women of that family**

**the people of that religion**

Nouns commonly used after of:  
**city, club, company, country, culture, descent, faith, family, gender, genus, group, ilk, organization, race, religion, society, species**

c. Of identifies ideas or **works with their author**, artist, or

composer.

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**  
**the works of Shakespeare**  
**the methods of the teacher**

Nouns often used before of:  
**essays, ideas, method, music,**  
**novels, opinion, paintings,**  
**plays, poems, poetry, songs,**  
**work, writing**

d. Of identifies an individual or  
**special member of a group** or  
institution.

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

**the president of the class  
the coordinators of the  
program**

Nouns commonly used before of:  
**captain, citizen, coordinator,  
dictator, head, hero, heroine,  
leader, loser, manager, mayor,  
member, president, secretary,  
servant, star, student, teacher,  
treasurer, villain, winner**

e. Of identifies a **person's  
occupation** or area of  
specialization.

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

**a professor of mathematics  
students of cardiology  
practitioner of medicine**

f. Of indicates a **connection  
with a place.**

**Pattern: noun + of + noun  
a native of Alaska  
the birds and animals of  
Australia**

Nouns often used before of:  
**animal, bird, citizen, graduate,  
inhabitant, native, people,  
resident**

**g. Of indicates a connection  
with a period of time.**

**the music of the eighties**

**the dances of her youth**

**the fourth of July**

## 41— Off

1 **Off** indicates **movement** from one place to another.

**Pattern 1: verb + off + noun**

*The car ran off the road.*

*We got off the train in New Orleans.*

Verbs used with this pattern:

**blow, come, dive, drive, fall, get, go,  
hop, jump, limp, move, roll, run,**

**slide, slip, walk**

**Expression:**

to be off (adverb)—to leave

*It's late, so we must be off.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + off + noun**

*They shoveled the snow off the driveway.*

Verbs used with this pattern:

**blow, brush, clean, clear, drive, get, move, pull, push, roll, run, scrape, shove, shovel, slide, slip, sweep, take, wash**

**2 Off** can indicate **separation**.

**Pattern: verb + off + noun**

*She cut off her beautiful long hair.*

Verbs commonly used with this meaning:

**break, chop, cut, pick, pull, saw, send, shave, take, tear, throw**

**3 Off means connected to or not far from.**

**Pattern: *be* + off + noun**

*Our street is off Main Street.*

Typical nouns after off:

**beach, coast, highway, island, road,**

**street, turnpike**

4 **Off** can indicate **behavior** that is not as usual or no longer true.

**Pattern 1: *be/go* + off +  $\emptyset$  noun**

*The children are off school today.*

*I'm glad your cousin finally went off drugs.*

Nouns commonly used with this meaning:

**alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, duty, school, work**

**Pattern 2: *be/go* + off + one's + noun**

*She went off her diet again.*

Typical nouns:

**diet, medication, medicine, pills**

**Expressions:**

to be off course—to be going (or thinking) in the wrong direction

*We got lost, and were off course for about three hours.*

*They got off course while doing the research, and wasted a lot of time.*

42—

**On**

1 **On** indicates location **higher than something and touching it; on top of.**

**Pattern: on + noun**

*The newspaper is on the table.*

*Please sign your name on the dotted line.*

2 **On** indicates an **outside location.**

**Pattern: on + the + noun**

*He was standing on the corner of  
First Street and Maple Avenue.*

*Let's have a barbecue on the  
balcony.*

Typical nouns after on the:

**balcony, beach, corner, fence, field,  
ground, hill, horizon, lawn, patio,  
porch, roof, terrace**

**3 On indicates a surface location.**

**Pattern 1: on + the + noun**

*She rides her bicycle on the  
sidewalk.*

Typical nouns after on the:  
**boardwalk, court, (baseball)  
diamond, field, highway, path, rink,  
road, rocks, screen, sidewalk, street**

**Pattern 2: on + Ø noun**

*That is the only place on earth  
where she feels safe.*

Typical nouns after on:  
**earth, land, page one (or any other  
number), solid ground, water**

**4 On indicates certain inside surface  
locations.**

**Pattern: on + the + noun**

*There is a fly on the ceiling.*

Typical nouns after on the:

**ceiling, floor, stairs, steps, wall,  
window**

**first/second (or other number) floor**

5 **On** indicates surface **contact**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + on + noun**

*The child pasted the picture on the page.*

Typical verbs:

**glue, hold, paste, stick**

6 **On** indicates **location in a part of**

**an area.**

**Pattern: be + on + the + noun + of +  
noun**

*The porch is on the side of the  
house.*

Typical nouns after on the:

**border, bottom, edge, end, exterior,  
inside, interior, left, outside,  
outskirts, first/second (or other  
number) page, right, side, surface,  
top**

43—

## Onto

1 **Onto** indicates **movement** from one position to another one.

**Pattern 1: verb + onto + noun**

*The child hopped onto the bed.*

Typical verbs used before onto:

**drip, fall, hop, jump, move, run, spill, step**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + onto + noun**

*We moved all the books onto the desk.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:  
**drip, drop, move, spill, transfer**

**2 Onto indicates knowledge of misbehavior.**

**Pattern: *be* + onto + noun.**

*The police are onto that gang about the missing money.*

44—

## On Top Of

1 **On top of** indicates a position **higher than the object.**

**Pattern:** verb + on top of + noun

*They put the blanket on top of the sheets, and the bedspread on top of the blanket.*

*I'm sure I left my keys on top of the desk.*

## 2 Expression

to be on top of something—to be sure about one's knowledge or control of something

*Her son had a hard time learning math, but he is on top of it now.*

45—

## Opposite

1 **Opposite** means **facing; across from**.

**Pattern:** verb + **opposite** + noun

*I sat opposite him at the library last night.*

*My house is opposite the drugstore.*

46—

## Out

1 **Out** can indicate **removal**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + out**

*Please take the trash out.*

Typical verbs used with out:

**carry, cross, cut, get, kick, leave,  
move, take, tear, throw**

**2 Out** can indicate **distribution**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + out**

*The teacher told me to hand these papers out.*

Typical verbs used with out:  
**give, hand, mail, pass, send**

**3 Out of** indicates **movement from inside**.

**Pattern 1: verb + out of + noun**

*He was freezing when he got out of the water.*

Typical verbs:

**come, crawl, drink, drive, eat, fall,  
get, go, jump, hop, run, step**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + out of +  
noun**

*She took the cake out of the oven.*

Typical verbs:

**drive, get, grab, move, pour, pull,  
push, rip, sip, squeeze, take, tear**

**4 Out of indicates absence.**

**Pattern: *be* + out of + noun**

*The boss is out of the office.*

*My neighbors are out of the country  
this month.*

## **Expression:**

to be out of town—to be absent from one's place of residence

*The boss is out of town this week.*

**5 Out of** indicates a **distance from**.

**Pattern:** verb + out of + noun of place

*The restaurant is about three miles out of town.*

*They live two blocks out of the city limits.*

**6 Out of** can mean **no longer in supply**.

**Pattern: *be/run* + out of + plural or noncount noun**

*I can't make a cake because I am out of eggs.*

*They had to walk to the gas station because they ran out of gas.*

Typical noncount nouns used after out of:

**breath, gas, luck, money, stock, time, work**

47—

## Outside

1 **Outside (of)** means **not within**.

**Pattern:** verb + **outside (of)** + noun  
*Don't worry, the dog is outside (of) the house.*

48—

**Over**

1 **Over** means **above**.

**Pattern 1: verb + over + noun**

*The plane flew over our building.*

*The pictures were hanging over the sofa.*

Typical verbs used before over:

**be, bend, float, fly, hang, hover,  
lean, look, shine, watch**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + over +  
noun**

*She hung the pictures over the sofa.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:  
**float, fly, hang, hold, install, nail,  
place, suspend**

**Expression:**

to hold something over one's head—to control, threaten, or punish someone because of a known fact or misdeed

*She knows he was fired from his last job; now she holds that over his head.*

**2 Over** can mean **higher than**.

**Pattern:** *be* + (way) over + noun

*The price of that vacation is (way) over our budget.*

*The water at this end of the pool is over your head.*

**Expression:**

be over one's head—more than one can understand

*I can do simple math, but that problem is way over my head.*

**3 Over** (adverb) can mean **more than**.

**Pattern:** over + number + noun

*He was driving at over eighty miles an hour.*

*I have gained over five pounds this month.*

4 **Over** indicates movement **above** something and **to the other side** of it.

**Pattern 1: verb + over + noun**

*The children jumped over the puddles on their way to school.*

*We had to climb over the mountain to get here.*

Typical verbs used before over:

**cross, climb, drive, get, go, hop, jump, look, run, skate, skip, step,**

**stumble, trip**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + over +  
noun**

*The young player batted the ball over  
the fence.*

*We had fun throwing rocks over the  
creek.*

Typical verbs:

**bat, carry, drive, hit, throw**

49—

**Past**

1 **Past** means **beyond**.

**Pattern:** *be* + **past** + **noun** referring to age

*The gas station is on your left, just past the shopping center.*

2 **Past** indicates **movement in front of and beyond** a place.

**Pattern: verb + past + noun**

*We drove past your house on our way to the party.*

*They often walk past the park.*

**3 Past means older than.**

**Pattern: *be* + past + noun referring to age**

*His daughter is past her teens now.*

*I'm sure he is past fifty.*

**4 Past means no longer able to do something.**

**Pattern: *be* + past + verb in gerund**

**form**

*She is bitter now, and past caring.*

*The men were exhausted and past working.*

**5 Past** (adverb) means **later than**.

**Pattern:** *be* + **past** + **noun** referring to time

*It is ten past three in the afternoon.*

*They left at half past seven.*

50—

## Through

1 **Through** indicates **passage within** something.

**Pattern:** verb + **through** + noun

*The children drank their milkshakes through straws.*

*The highway was closed, and we had to come through the city.*

Typical nouns used after through:

**funnel, passage, pipe, straw, tunnel  
a place—building, city, country,  
park, state, town**

**2 Through** can indicate a **gateway**  
or **obstacle** between two places.

**Pattern 1: verb + through + noun**

*We came through the front door.*

*He drove through the red light and  
got a ticket.*

Typical nouns:

**barricade, barrier, curtains, customs,  
door, entrance, gate, hole,  
intersection, light, slot, stop sign,  
window**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + through + noun**

*The mail carrier pushed the letters through the slot.*

Typical verbs used before through:  
**bring, carry, force, pull, push, receive, send, take**

**3 Through** can indicate **vision beyond something**.

**Pattern: see/show + through + noun**

*The window is so dirty that I can't see through it.*

*The tablecloth needs a liner; the*

*table legs show through it.*

Typical nouns used after through:  
**clouds, fabric, fog, glass, smoke,  
window**

**Expression:**

to see through somebody—to detect  
insincerity

*That woman pretends to be nice, but  
I can see right through her.*

4 **Through** can indicate the **parts  
beginning, between, and including.**

**Pattern: from + noun + through +  
noun**

*They have to work from Monday through Friday.*

*Please read from chapter one through chapter four.*

**5 Through** can mean **finish something that requires effort.**

**Pattern 1: verb + through + noun**

*I have to get through school before I can get married.*

Typical verbs used before through:  
**get, go, live, struggle, suffer**

Typical nouns after through:  
**school, training, work**



**51—**

## **Throughout**

1 **Throughout** means **in all parts** of a place.

*There are spiders throughout the building.*

2 **Throughout** means during **an entire** period of time.

*She stays at the beach throughout the summer.*



52—

To

1 **To** indicates the **destination of a verb**.

**Pattern 1: verb + to + ø noun**

*I'm going to bed.*

*They ride to school on the bus.*

Nouns commonly used after to:

**bed, breakfast, church, dinner, jail, lunch, school, work**

Exception:

go ø home

*It is time to go home.*

*They went home on the bus.*

**Pattern 2: verb + to + the + noun**

*We go to the park every afternoon.*

*Call when you get to the office.*

Verbs often used with to:

**come, drive, extend, fall, fly, get, go,  
hike, move, return, ride, rise, run,  
send, ship, sink, walk**

**Expression:**

to rise to the occasion—to force oneself to act correctly

*I was surprised when he walked in, but I rose to the occasion and shook his hand.*

**2 To** indicates the **destination of a noun.**

**Pattern 1: noun + to + noun**

*The train to New York leaves at six o'clock.*

*We wanted to go on a cruise to the Caribbean.*

Typical nouns used before to:

**airplane, bridge, bus, climb, cruise,**

**flight, highway, path, race, road,  
subway, train, trip, way**

**Pattern 2: noun + *be* + to + noun**

*The train is to New York.*

*His question is to me.*

Typical nouns used before to:

**answer, card, donation, explanation,  
gift, letter, memo, offer, petition,  
present, proposal, question, request,  
suggestion**

**3 To** indicates a **transfer** from a person or place.

**Pattern: verb + noun + to + noun**

*He delivers the mail to the office.*  
*She mentioned her plans to me.*

Typical verbs used before to:  
**bring, carry, deliver, describe,**  
**distribute, donate, explain, give,**  
**hand, introduce, lend, mention, pass,**  
**present, read, recommend, reveal,**  
**send, shout, show, sing, speak,**  
**submit, suggest, take, tell, write**

**53—**

## **Toward**

**1 Toward** means **in the direction of a place.**

**Pattern 1: verb + toward + noun**

*She ran toward the playground to see her friends.*

*Let's head toward the park.*

Typical verbs:

**blow, fly, go, head, hike, look,**

**march, move, point, run, sail, turn,  
walk**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + toward +  
noun**

*He guided us toward the cave.*

*They directed the girls toward the  
path.*

Typical verbs:

**direct, guide, lead, push, pull, shove,  
throw**

2 **Toward** indicates **attitude** about  
something.

**Pattern 1: *be* + adjective + toward +**

**noun**

*She is very affectionate toward her parents.*

*They have been cool toward his proposals.*

Typical adjectives:

**affectionate, charitable, considerate, cool, friendly, gracious, hospitable, inhospitable, menacing, spiteful, warm**

**Pattern 2: noun + toward + noun**

*His feelings toward her have not changed.*

Typical nouns before toward:

**attitude, behavior, conduct,  
demeanor, feelings**

**3 Toward** indicates the **direction of action.**

**Pattern: verb + toward + noun**

*They are heading toward an agreement.*

*We worked toward a happy conclusion for everyone.*

Typical nouns after toward:  
**agreement, argument, conclusion,  
ending, goal, vote**

Typical verbs:

**head, lean, push, take steps, work**

**4 Toward** indicates the object of a **contribution** or **partial payment**.

**Pattern: verb + toward + noun**

*The money will go toward helping the family.*

*She contributes toward his monthly expenses.*

Typical verbs:

**contribute, donate, give, go, help**

54—

## **Towards**

1 **Towards** means **near a period of time**.

**Pattern 1: towards + noun**

*I always feel hungry towards dinnertime.*

Typical nouns used after towards:  
**dawn, dinnertime, dusk, evening, lunchtime, mid-afternoon, midnight,**

**noon**

**Pattern 2: towards + the +  
end/middle + of + the + noun**

*We start getting ready for school  
towards the end of the summer.*

Typical nouns used with this pattern:  
**class, concert, course, day, fall,  
flight, game, month, party, period,  
season, semester, show, spring,  
summer, trip, vacation, week,  
winter, year**

**55—**

**Under**

1 **Under** means **in a lower position** than something else.

Pattern 1: verb + under + noun

*We sat under the tree and had a picnic.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + under + noun**

*Let's put the desk under the window;*

*then we'll have a great view.*

**2 Under** means **covered by something else; underneath.**

**Pattern 1: verb + under + noun**

*The children hid under the table, thinking we couldn't see them.*

Typical verbs before under:

**be, hide, lie, rest, sit, sleep, stand, wait, walk**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + under + noun**

*She stores all her boxes under the bed.*

Typical verbs:

**bury, find, hide, place, push, put,  
store, wear**

**3 Under means less than.**

**Pattern: under + noun**

*I'm sure she was driving under the  
speed limit.*

*He has three children under age ten.*

Nouns commonly used after under:

**any number, age, average, height,  
limit, maximum, minimum, norm  
weight**

## **Expression:**

to be under age—to not be old enough  
to do something

*She can't vote because she is under age.*

4 **Under** can indicate **control**.

### **Pattern 1: under + noun**

*Under this boss we have little freedom to express our own ideas.*

*You have a lot more benefits under the new insurance policy.*

Typical nouns used after under:

**boss, coach, contract, dictator, doctor, general, king, mayor, policy,**

**principal, president, professor,  
supervisor, teacher**

**Pattern 2: under + the + noun + of +  
noun**

*She is under the care of a doctor.*

Typical nouns after under the:  
**administration, care, control,  
dictatorship, direction, eye,  
management, presidency**

**Pattern 3: under + ø + noun**

*The children are under supervision  
at all times.*

*They were arrested under orders of  
the chief.*



56—

## Underneath

1 **Underneath** means **in a lower position** than something else.

*The sheets are underneath the blankets on the shelf.*

2 **Underneath** means **covered by**.

*I found my jacket underneath the other coats.*

3 **Underneath** indicates **concealed**

**feelings.**

*Underneath her smile there is a lot of heartache.*

*He is really very kind underneath his stern appearance.*

57—

## Until

1 **Until** indicates the **time of change** of an activity or situation.

**Pattern 1: verb + until + time**

*They waited until six o'clock.*

*The boys studied until midnight.*

**Pattern 2: verb + until + beginning of event**

*They lived here until their wedding;*

*then they left.*

*She was busy until her graduation.*

*They didn't watch the game until  
halftime.*

## 58— Up

1 **Up** indicates **movement to a higher place.**

**Pattern 1: verb + up + noun**

*The cat climbed up the tree.*

*She always walks up the steps to the fifth floor.*

Typical verbs used before up:

**climb, creep, go, jump, move, pop,**

**race, run, walk**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + up + noun**

*Bring the box up the steps.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:

**bring, carry, drag, heave, move,**

**send, take**

**2 Up (adverb) indicates location at a high place.**

**Pattern: *be* + up**

*The balloon is up.*

**Expression:**

to be up—to be awake

*I am up every day by eight o'clock.*

3 **Up** indicates **location further along** the way.

**Pattern: verb + up + noun**

*Their farm is three miles up the road.*

*She lives two blocks up the street.*

4 **Up** indicates **movement along a way**.

**Pattern 1: verb + up + noun**

*She is going to travel up Route 66.*

Nouns commonly used after up:  
**highway, path, road, street,  
turnpike, way**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + up + noun**  
*We will drive four more miles up the  
highway.*

**5 Up** indicates movement **against a  
current of water.**

**Pattern: verb + up + noun**  
*They swam up the river for exercise.*

Typical verbs used before up:  
**cruise, drive, go, row, sail, swim**

6 **Up** indicates a **desired result**.

**Pattern: verb + up + noun**

*They are trying to drum up support.*

Typical verbs:

**drum, round, scrape, work**

## 59— With

1 **With** means **in the company of**.

**Pattern 1: verb + with + noun**

*She is with her sister.*

*I danced with him.*

Typical verbs used before with:

**be, chat, converse, dance, drink, eat,  
go, leave, live, play, stay, study, talk,  
travel, walk, work**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + with + noun**  
*She spent the weekend with us.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:  
**dance, drink, eat, leave, play, spend, study**

**Expressions:**

to be tied up with—to be occupied with at the moment

*He can't come to the phone; he is tied up with a client.*

to be in a discussion with—to be talking seriously to

*The boss is in a discussion with the manager right now.*

**2 With means in the same place as.**

**Pattern 1: *be* + with + noun**

*My hat is with my scarf.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + with + noun**

*Put your coat with mine.*

*She left her children with the  
babysitter.*

Typical verbs:

**keep, leave, put, store**

**3 With can mean added together.**

**Pattern: noun + with + noun**

*She always drinks her coffee with sugar.*

*The hotel with meals will cost 200 dollars a day.*

4 **With** can describe something by indicating what it **has**.

**Pattern 1: noun + with + noun**

*Did you see a woman with a baby a few minutes ago?*

*I have an article with pictures for my presentation.*

**Pattern 2: be + past participle + with + noun**

*You will be provided with two sets of*

*keys.*

Past participles used with this pattern:  
**caught, discovered, found, furnished,  
provided, seen**

60—

## **Within**

1 **Within** means **not outside a place**.

**Pattern:** *be* + **within** + noun

*Those schools are within the county jurisdiction.*

*There is too much commotion within the building.*

Typical nouns used after within:

**area, building, city, country, county, jurisdiction, state, territory, walls**

**2 Within means less than a period of time.**

*I will return within the hour.*

*He will finish within five minutes.*

**3 Within means less than a distance.**  
*There is a hospital within five miles of the school.*

*The storm was within ten miles of our town.*

**4 Within means possible; not exceeding the limits of something.**

**Pattern: *be* + *within* + (one's) noun**

*At last, the beach is within sight!*

*A fortune is within our reach if we are lucky.*

Typical nouns after within:

**bounds, hearing, range, sight, reach,  
the law, the limit, the rules**

## **5 Expression**

to keep within the family—to not reveal something to anyone who is not a family member

*That man has a strange history, but they keep it within the family.*



61—

## Without

1 **Without** indicates the **absence of somebody**.

*I can't live without you.*

*Please don't leave without me.*

2 **Without** means **not having**.

**Pattern:** verb + without + (any) noun

*That young mother manages without*

*any help.*

*We are without money this month.*

**3 Without means not using.**

**Pattern: verb + noun + without +  
noun**

*We did the crossword puzzle without  
a dictionary.*

*She can't read without her glasses.*

**4 Without means not performing an  
action.**

**Pattern: without + verb in gerund  
form**

*She passed the test without studying.*

*He left without saying good-bye.*

## 5 Expressions

without a doubt—certainly

*She is without a doubt the best  
chairman we have ever had.*

without fail—a demand or promise to  
do something

*Be here at six A.M. without fail.  
I will finish within three days  
without fail.*

without ceremony—immediately and  
quietly

*He took charge without ceremony*

*and began to work.*

that goes without saying—that is  
understood to be true

***You will be paid well for your work;  
that goes without saying.***

# **PART TWO— PREPOSITIONS BY FUNCTION**

## Time

### BEFORE

—previous to a time

*Ten o'clock is before eleven o'clock.*

### DURING

—for part of a period

*He slept during the day. (He slept from two P.M. until four P.M.)*

—at the same time as another event

*She slept during the football game.*

### AT AROUND, AT ABOUT

—at an approximate time

*We will leave at around six.*

*We will get there at about seven.*

### AF

—

*Th*

### TE

—

*He un*

*He*

### BY

—

*We*

## TO, OF

—minutes before the hour

*It's ten to four.*

*It's ten of four.*

## BETWEEN

—after a time, and before another time

*They will arrive between five and six.*

## BEYOND, PAST

—after a time

*Our guests stayed beyond midnight.*

*Our guests stayed past midnight.*

## FOR

—during a length of time

*They have been here for a week.*

## IN

**in time**—not too late for an event

*Try to get here in time to help me.*

—a century, decade, year, season, month

by  
*By*  
TC

—1  
*It*

WI  
—1  
*Th*

UN

—1  
*Th*

SI

—1  
*Th*

ON

on  
*He*

on  
*Be*

—1

*He lived in the sixteenth century.*

*Sh*

*That singer was popular in the eighties.*

*Sh*

*We came here in the fall.*

*I h*

***Exercise 1—  
Write the Correct Preposition in  
Each Blank:***

1. Their daughter was born \_\_\_\_\_  
1998

\_\_\_\_\_ October  
\_\_\_\_\_ the 18th  
\_\_\_\_\_ four-thirty  
\_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon.

2. I haven't seen my friend  
\_\_\_\_\_ August.

3. He was here \_\_\_\_\_ two weeks.

4. The play starts \_\_\_\_\_ seven o'clock  
\_\_\_\_\_ the dot, so be sure to be here  
\_\_\_\_\_ six-fifty.

5. Her mother is going to be here  
\_\_\_\_\_ the tenth \_\_\_\_\_ July. She will  
be here \_\_\_\_\_ two weeks.

6. Our neighbors always have a party  
\_\_\_\_\_ New Year's Eve. It usually  
starts \_\_\_\_\_ ten o'clock and  
lasts \_\_\_\_\_ the next morning.

7. Some people never go out \_\_\_\_\_

night because they get up so early  
\_\_\_\_\_ the morning.

**8.** Four o'clock is \_\_\_\_\_ five  
o'clock.

**9.** The baby didn't sleep \_\_\_\_\_  
the night because he was so hungry.

**10.** I heard a noise \_\_\_\_\_ the  
night, but I was too sleepy to get up.

**11.** \_\_\_\_\_ the moment we are trying to  
study.

**12.** Some of us couldn't finish the test  
because the time was \_\_\_\_\_.



## Location

### IN

—a continent, a country, a state, a city, a town

*She lives in California.*

*She lives in San Francisco.*

—a room, an area of a room

*She is in the kitchen, in the*

### ON

—a street, a floor

*She lives on Oak Street.*

*She lives on the first floor.*

—an outside area

*He is standing on the sidewalk.*

*corner.*

*Our theater seats are in the balcony.*

—a comfortable chair

*He sat in the chair and watched television.*

**in bed**—under the covers

—the water, the air, the environment

*They are swimming in the water.*

*There is pollution in the air.*

—the center, the middle

*Our house is in the center of town.*

—the north/south/east/west

*New England is in the north of the United States.*

—a bodily attack

*He has an outdoor balcony.*

—a straight chair, a

*He sat on the chair at dinner.*

*We sat on the sofa watching television.*

**on the bed**—on top

—facing a coast, a

*The house is on the*

—the side, left, right

*Our house is on the north side of the street.*

—the north side/south side/west side

*Our house is on the surface of the town.*

—the surface of the

***The stone hit me in the face.***

—a vehicle one cannot walk around  
in (car/small boat/small  
plane/helicopter)

***Please ride in the car with us.***

***He has a scratch***

—a vehicle one can  
(bus/train/large boat)

***Please ride on the***

—an individual vehicle  
bicycle, motorcycle

***He came over on***

*Exercise 2—  
Write in the Correct Prepositions*

**A.** Where is the star?

1.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
2.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
3.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
4.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
5.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
6.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
7.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
8.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
9.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
10.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
11.  \_\_\_\_\_ the boxes
12.  \_\_\_\_\_ the boxes

B. Her apartment is \_\_\_\_\_ Florida,

\_\_\_\_\_ Miami,

\_\_\_\_\_ The Palms

\_\_\_\_\_ Ocean Drive

\_\_\_\_\_ number 407.

She lives \_\_\_\_\_ the fourth floor

\_\_\_\_\_ a very nice  
apartment.

She is often \_\_\_\_\_ school

or \_\_\_\_\_ work.

When she is \_\_\_\_\_ home, she is usually  
asleep \_\_\_\_\_ bed.

However, right now she is

\_\_\_\_\_ the kitchen,

\_\_\_\_\_ the stove, cooking.

Soon she will sit down

\_\_\_\_\_ a dining room  
chair

\_\_\_\_\_ the table

\_\_\_\_\_ the corner, to  
eat her dinner.

She will probably be out

\_\_\_\_\_ the balcony  
after dinner,

sitting \_\_\_\_\_ a comfortable  
chair and relaxing.



## Direction

**ACROSS**

The line goes **across** the box.

**ALONG, BY**

The line goes **along** the box.  
The line goes **by** the box.

**PAST**

The line goes **past** the box.

**THROUGH**

The line goes **through** the box.

**AROUND**

The line goes **around** the box.

**TO, TOWARD**

The solid line goes **to** the box.  
The dotted line goes **toward** the box.

**FROM, AWAY FROM**

The line goes **from** the box.  
The line goes **away from** the box.

**BACK TO**

The line goes **back to** the box.

**BACK FROM**

The dotted line comes **back from** the box.

**IN, INTO**

The line goes **in** the box.  
The line goes **into** the box.

**OUT OF**

The line goes **out of** the box.

**ONTO**

The line goes **onto** the table.

**OFF**

The line goes **off** the table.

**OVER**

The line goes **over** the hill.

**DOWN**

The line goes **down** the hill.

**UP**

The line goes **up** the hill.

**WITH**

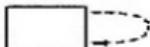
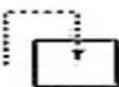
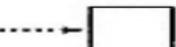
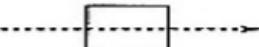
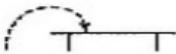
The boat sails **with** the wind.

**FOR**

The plane is leaving **for** Spain.



*Exercise 3—  
Where Is the Dotted Line Going?*

1.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
2.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
3.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
4.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
5.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
6.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
7.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
8.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
9.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
10.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
11.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
12.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
13.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
14.  \_\_\_\_\_ the table
15.  \_\_\_\_\_ the table



## Number

About, around, above, over, under, and b  
when used before numbers.

### **ABOUT, AROUND**

approximately

*There were about 200 people there.*

*There were around 200 people there.*

### **ABOVE, OVER**

more than

*She has over a hundred books on that subject.*

*She has above a hundred books on that subject.*

### **UNDER**

less than

*The car costs under a thousand dollars.*

**BETWEEN**

higher than one number and lower than another

*The tickets will cost between twenty and twenty-five cents.*

**PLUS**

indicates addition

*Five plus six equals eleven.*

**FROM**

indicates subtraction

*Three from ten equals seven.*

**BY**

indicates multiplication

*Three multiplied by four equals twelve.*

**INTO**

indicates division

*Three into twelve equals four.*



## OF

indicates a fraction

*One-half of twelve is six.*

*One-third of nine is three.*

*Three-quarters of twelve is nine.*

indicates all, part, or none of a specific p  
noun, following **all, many, much, a lot, l**  
**several, some, a few, a little, a bit, non**

*All of the books on the table are yours.*

*Some of the money went to charity.*

*None of the furniture is valuable.*

***Exercise 4—***

***Fill in Each Blank with the Appropriate Word.***

1. He has (approximately) \_\_\_\_\_ 5

2. There are (more than) \_\_\_\_\_ tw  
here.

3. I paid (less than) \_\_\_\_\_ ten doll

4. The number six is \_\_\_\_\_ one an

5.  $7 + 4 = 11$  Seven \_\_\_\_\_ four equa

6.  $12 - 2 = 10$  Two \_\_\_\_\_ twelve eq

7.  $2 \overline{)12}^6$  Two \_\_\_\_\_ twelve equals s

8. One-tenth \_\_\_\_\_ one hundred equa

# Weather

## DURING

—weather events (a storm, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake)

*We stayed at home during the storm.*

## IN

—types of weather (go foul, stormy cloudy, hurricane, dry, hot, cold, sticky)

**in the rain;**

**in the snow**

*They swim in good weather.*

*He walked home in the rain.*

*The children played in the snow.*

***Exercise 5—***

***Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Preposition***

1. I don't like to go out \_\_\_\_\_ bad weather.
2. The children love to play \_\_\_\_\_ the snow.
3. They have to stay inside \_\_\_\_\_ the storm.
4. We often go to the beach \_\_\_\_\_ sunny days.
5. She loves to walk \_\_\_\_\_ the rain.
6. She gets depressed \_\_\_\_\_ rainy days.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ the hurricane we stayed in the b

8. \_\_\_\_\_ cold days you have to wear a w

9. \_\_\_\_\_ cold weather it is nice to sit by

10. What do you do \_\_\_\_\_ snowy evenin

## Source of Information

### IN

—written material  
(book, magazine, article,  
newspaper)

*I read it in a book.*

*She found the article in a  
magazine.*

### ON

—electronically  
(the radio, the Internet,  
telephone, television)

*I heard it on the radio.*

*They saw him on television.*

**Exercise 6—**

***Fill in Each Blank with the Appropriate Source of Information.***

1. I saw your picture \_\_\_\_\_ the newspaper.
2. He found the information \_\_\_\_\_ the Internet.
3. She heard the news \_\_\_\_\_ television last night.
4. We looked up your number \_\_\_\_\_ the phone book.
5. I read that \_\_\_\_\_ a book.
6. He found those dates \_\_\_\_\_ an encyclopedia.
7. We watched that show \_\_\_\_\_ television last week.
8. The article was \_\_\_\_\_ a magazine.

**9.** There was a good program \_\_\_\_\_ the 1

**10.** Did you talk to her \_\_\_\_\_ the telepho

## Affiliation

### IN

—part of a group (association, bureau, category, choir, chorus, clan, club, division, family, fraternity, group, office, organization, society, sorority, union, political party)

*The children in that family are all good students.*

### OF

—related to origin (of time, culture, gender, religion, sex)

*The people of that town are very friendly.*

—a special member

*She is the president of the college.*

***Exercise 7—***

***Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate***

1. She is \_\_\_\_\_ the female sex.
2. My sister is \_\_\_\_\_ the jury.
3. She is also \_\_\_\_\_ the women's chorus.
4. Her son is \_\_\_\_\_ the softball team.
5. His wife is \_\_\_\_\_ a different religion.
6. Is your brother \_\_\_\_\_ a fraternity at co
7. She was the president \_\_\_\_\_ the senio

**8.** I think her cousin is \_\_\_\_\_ the school l

**9.** She is \_\_\_\_\_ the garden club.

**10.** They are going to put you \_\_\_\_\_ the p

## Description

### ABOUT

—partially  
describing

*There is  
something cute  
about him.*

*I don't see  
anything funny  
about that.*

### ABOVE

—better than

*He is above  
deceit.*

*She is above  
cheating.*

### LIKE

—similar to

*He is (just) like  
his father.*

*He looks like his  
father.*

**Exercise 8—**

***Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate***

1. He is \_\_\_\_\_ his brother.
2. She may be nasty, but she is \_\_\_\_\_ cruel.
3. We don't know anything \_\_\_\_\_ that.
4. His reputation is spotless; he is a man \_\_\_\_\_.
5. There is something special \_\_\_\_\_ him.
6. She's a little crazy, but there is something \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Have you seen a man \_\_\_\_\_ white hair father.

**8.** He is very polite; he is a man \_\_\_\_\_ go

**9.** I don't know anybody \_\_\_\_\_ him.

**10.** My friend is the girl \_\_\_\_\_ curly red

## Wearing

(Dressed) IN

*He was dressed in black.*

*She came in a red dress.*

*They are always in jeans.*

WITH . . . ON

*He is the man with the black suit on.*

*She is the lady with the red dress on.*

*They are the students with jeans on.*

### *Exercise 9—*

*Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate*

1. The lady was dressed \_\_\_\_\_ red.

2. The lady had a red suit \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The lady \_\_\_\_\_ the red suit \_\_\_\_\_ is n
4. The children who \_\_\_\_\_ blue jackets \_
5. The children were \_\_\_\_\_ blue jackets.
6. The children had blue jackets \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I saw a man \_\_\_\_\_ black.
8. I saw a man \_\_\_\_\_ a black hat \_\_\_\_\_.
9. I saw a man who had \_\_\_\_\_ a black ha

**10.** The students are always dressed \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic

### *Prepositions after Verbs:*

#### **ABOUT**

advise

agree

argue

ask

bother

brag

care

complain

contact

know

laugh

lie

pray

question

read

remind

say

sing

#### **AT**

aim

glare

grab

hit

laugh

look

rush

shoot

snatch

#### **IN**

assist

bask

cooperate

drown

help

interest

invest

participate

persist

#### **OF**

advise

complain

dream

hear

inform

know

learn

remind

sing

cry	speak	stare	steep	speak
do	talk	swing	submerge	talk
dream	teach			tell
fight	tell			think
forget	think			
grieve	wonder			
harass	worry			
hear	write			
inform	yell			
joke				

***Exercise 10—  
Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate***

1. She advised me \_\_\_\_\_ my sched

2. We argued \_\_\_\_\_ money.
3. They don't know anything \_\_\_\_\_
4. He helped us \_\_\_\_\_ getting a loan.
5. He taught me a lot \_\_\_\_\_ music.
6. They insisted \_\_\_\_\_ leaving early.
7. Are you going to invest \_\_\_\_\_ the stock market?
8. What are you looking \_\_\_\_\_?
9. Why did he persist \_\_\_\_\_ asking for more?

**10.** The girl is going to report \_\_\_\_\_

**11.** One shouldn't cry \_\_\_\_\_ spille

## Recipient

### FOR

usually indicates benefit to recipient

#### after verbs:

bake, build, buy, cook, create, dance, design, do, get, make, play, sing, want something, win, work, write

*I wrote this poem for you.*

#### after nouns:

### ON

Expressions:

**have pity/mercy**

*Please have pity on th*

*The boss had mercy o*

*and let us go home ea*

**pull a gun/knife on**

*The thief pulled a gun*

*the frightened worker.*

advice, answer, cure, gift help,  
idea, information, job, present,  
something, surprise letter,  
message, news, nothing, plan,  
project, question, secret

***Here is an answer for him.***

indicates effect on recipient

**after adjectives:**

bad, beneficial, better, crucial,  
good, harmful, healthy, helpful,  
important, necessary,  
unacceptable, unfavorable,  
unhealthy, unimportant, useful,  
worse

***That environment is  
unhealthy for you.***



***Exercise 11—  
Fill in the Blanks with the  
Appropriate Prepositions:***

1. I hope they give the award  
\_\_\_\_\_ him.

2. She cooked a big meal \_\_\_\_\_  
us.

3. The police had mercy \_\_\_\_\_  
the young hooligans and sent them  
home.

4. The travel agency had a lot of information \_\_\_\_\_ her.

5. They sent a lot of information \_\_\_\_\_ her.

6. The information was useful \_\_\_\_\_ her.

7. This fresh fruit is good \_\_\_\_\_ you.

8. The news was fascinating \_\_\_\_\_ him.

9. Is the contract acceptable

\_\_\_\_\_ you?

**10.** Practicing is very good  
\_\_\_\_\_ me.

**11.** They prepared a wonderful surprise  
\_\_\_\_\_ her.

**12.** Is television harmful \_\_\_\_\_  
children?

## State

### *Nouns after Prepositions*

**AT**

attention

ease

leisure

peace

play

rest

risk

war

**IN**

a hurry

a mess

a mood

a rage

a stew

anguish

awe

bankruptcy

disarray

disaster

disgrace

disorder

doubt

dread

fear

focus

**ON**

a roll

approval

board

call

course

display

duty

edge

work	captivity	gear	fire
	chaos	good health	guard
	charge	jail	high/low vo
	check	luck	high/low sp
	circulation	hot water	hold
	comfort	love	leave
	commission	need	loan
	condition	order	one's best l
	confinement	pain	order
	conflict	power	parole
	confusion	ruins	record
	control	session	sale
	danger	shape	schedule
	debt	sickness	stand-by
	demand	tears	strike
	despair	trouble	tap
			target

track

trial

vacation

***Exercise 12—***

***Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate***

1. The children were \_\_\_\_\_ breath

2. The new houses are \_\_\_\_\_ cons

3. She is \_\_\_\_\_ a big hurry.

4. The soldiers stood \_\_\_\_\_ attenti

5. All of the workers are \_\_\_\_\_ stri

6. They sat there \_\_\_\_\_ comfort all

7. I'm afraid she's \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of tr

## Separation

### FROM

**after verbs:**

drive, keep, move, run,  
separate, stay, subtract,  
walk

**after adjectives:**

divorced, separated

### OF

**after verbs:**

cure, die, relieve,  
rid

**after adjectives:**

cured, relieved, rid

### OFF

**after verbs:**

break, chop  
pick, pull, s  
send, shave  
tear, throw

***Exercise 13—***

***Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate***

- 1.** I'm glad you finally got rid \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.** He drove \_\_\_\_\_ the garage in a
- 3.** Are you finished \_\_\_\_\_ that project
- 4.** She walked \_\_\_\_\_ school to her
- 5.** They relieved her \_\_\_\_\_ all her
- 6.** They are going to send their children \_\_\_\_\_ summer.

**7.** We can't move into the office until they

**8.** Before doing the laundry, I want to separate \_\_\_\_\_ the white ones.

**9.** Have you seen Sally? She has cut \_\_\_\_\_

**10.** It is wonderful; he has been cured \_\_\_\_\_

## Attitude

### *Adjectives before Prepositions*

<b>ABOUT</b>	<b>AT</b>	<b>BY</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>IN</b>
angry	aghast	amazed	eager	dis
anxious	amazed	amused	concerned	int
bashful	amused	annoyed	grateful*	
concerned	angry	bewildered	prepared	
confused	annoyed	bored	ready	
crazy	astonished	confused	sorry	
excited	astounded	disgusted		
faithful*	indignant	embarrassed		

glad shocked fascinated

happy speechless frustrated

honest surprised irritated

mad thrilled shocked

nervous upset

objective

optimistic

pessimistic

right

sad

sick

silly

sorry

unhappy

upset

worried

\*grateful *to* a person/grateful *for* a thing

\*faithful *to* a person/faithful *about* doing something

### ***Exercise 14—***

### ***Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Preposition***

1. She is ashamed \_\_\_\_\_ her sloppy work.

2. Are you ready \_\_\_\_\_ the test?

3. We are grateful \_\_\_\_\_ you.

4. We are grateful \_\_\_\_\_ your help.

5. He is very annoyed \_\_\_\_\_ me.

6. Try to be objective \_\_\_\_\_ it.
7. They were shocked \_\_\_\_\_ the child's behavior.
8. I am interested \_\_\_\_\_ studying there.
9. He seems to be suspicious \_\_\_\_\_ us.
10. She is a little unsure \_\_\_\_\_ herself.

## Behavior

### *Adjectives before Prepositions*

<b>OF</b> someone	<b>ABOUT</b> something	<b>WITH</b> something or someone else	
bad	careless	awkward	cha
careless	charming	belligerent	cor
charming	crazy	careful	cou
crazy	cruel	careless	cru
crude	good	clumsy	fail

cruel	honest	curt	friendly
evil	kind	flexible	good
good	mean	forthcoming	gracious
hateful	nasty	frank	hateful
honest	nice	friendly	helpful
ignorant	rude	generous	hostile
irresponsible	selfish	honest	inhospitable
kind	sweet	impatient	kind
mean	thoughtful	open	mean
nasty	thoughtless	patient	nice
nice	understanding	stiff	polite
responsible	unkind	sympathetic	rude
rude		truthful	sworn
selfish			sympathetic
sweet			truthful
thoughtful			unkind
thoughtless			

typical

unconscionable

understanding

unkind

***Exercise 15A—***

***Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Preposition***

1. She was impatient \_\_\_\_\_ us.
2. He was rude \_\_\_\_\_ our absence.
3. Try to be courteous \_\_\_\_\_ every one.
4. The teacher is too hard \_\_\_\_\_ his students.

**5.** Thank you for being so hospitable \_\_\_\_\_

**6.** They have been very sympathetic \_\_\_\_\_

**7.** The old man was generous \_\_\_\_\_

**8.** Do you think he is being honest \_\_\_\_\_

**9.** She is faithful \_\_\_\_\_ her husband

**10.** The landlord was nasty \_\_\_\_\_

## *Verbs before Prepositions*

### **AT**

cheer

grumble

guess

hint

hoot

laugh

rebel

rejoice

snort

tremble

### **ON**

center

concentrate

dote

dwell

err

harp

pick

prey

put pressure

wait

work

### **TO**

adapt

admit

agree

appeal

consent

listen

object

pay attention

react

relate

reply

respond  
revert

subscribe

***Exercise 15B—***

***Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Pre***

1. He didn't respond \_\_\_\_\_ my lett
2. You have to comply \_\_\_\_\_ the a
3. We are working \_\_\_\_\_ our goal
4. Try not to dwell \_\_\_\_\_ your pro
5. I don't object \_\_\_\_\_ their comin

6. They donated \_\_\_\_\_ several cha

7. She is putting a lot of pressure \_\_\_\_\_

8. I wish you wouldn't laugh \_\_\_\_\_

9. They rejoiced \_\_\_\_\_ the news.

10. The children cried \_\_\_\_\_ delig

## Prepositions before Nouns

### IN

assent  
cold blood  
compliance  
confusion  
consent  
defeat  
disgrace  
disobedience  
dissent  
desolation  
fun

abandon  
anger  
care  
compassion  
courage  
delight  
despair  
discretion  
disdain  
distress  
enthusiasm

### WITH

humility  
indifference  
kindness  
joy  
love  
malice  
optimism  
pleasure  
pride  
regard  
sadness

person  
private

public

reaction

someone's absence

someone's presence

fear  
feeling

glee

grace

gratitude

happiness

hatred

shame  
skill

sympathy

tenderness

thanks

understandi

***Exercise 15C—***

***Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Pre***

1. He resigned \_\_\_\_\_ disgrace.
2. She performed her duties \_\_\_\_\_
3. She hung her head \_\_\_\_\_ sorrow
4. I told you that \_\_\_\_\_ confidence

5. You have to deliver it \_\_\_\_\_ pe

6. The woman was clearly \_\_\_\_\_ 1

7. She does her work \_\_\_\_\_ skill.

8. Please don't talk so loud \_\_\_\_\_

9. The matter must be treated \_\_\_\_\_

10. She accepted the invitation \_\_\_\_\_

# **PART THREE— USING PREPOSITIONS**

## Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase is a preposition p

There are three possible patterns:

preposition + noun

preposition + pronoun

preposition + verb + -ing

### **PREPOSITION + NOUN**

#### **Singular Nouns**

# NORMAL PATTERNS

preposition + noun determiner +/- (des)

with a

with a

with a

**SINGULAR NOUN DETERMINERS:**  
every, another, either, neither, my, you  
any other possessive noun)

## EXCEPTION

preposition +  $\emptyset$  + singular common noun

in

bed

to

school

## *Singular Proper Nouns*

preposition +  $\emptyset$  + proper noun

with

Mary

for

Mr. Jones

### *Exercise 1A—*

*Correct the Mistakes in the Following  
Correct Phrases in the Blank Spaces.*

1. with pen

\_\_\_\_\_

2. for other girl

\_\_\_\_\_

3. to Mary cousin

\_\_\_\_\_

4. without book

---

5. from nice boy

---

6. between Mary and other girl

---

7. in the Mary's house

---

8. for the another apple \_\_\_\_\_

9. next to tall boy \_\_\_\_\_

10. near the Mr. Johnson's house \_\_\_\_\_

## *Plural Nouns*

### NORMAL PATTERNS

<u>preposition</u>	+/-	(noun determiner)	+/-	(d ad
for				
for		the		
for				re

for

the

re

**PLURAL NOUN DETERMINERS: the, these, those, any, no, either, neither, one, plenty of, a lot of, lots of, many, all, my, Mary's (or any possessive noun)**

A plural noun not preceded by a noun determiner in general.

### *Plural Proper Nouns*

preposition + the + proper noun

for

the

Joneses

for

the

United States

***Exercise 1B—***

***Correct the Mistakes in the Following  
Correct Phrases in the Blank Spaces.***

1. for three apple

---

2. without friend

---

3. in United States

---

4. from many country

---

5. to a lots of places

---

6. except this exercises

---

7. with another friends

---

8. at plenty of store

---

9. by other teacher

---

10. from the Smith

---

## *Noncount Nouns*

### NORMAL PATTERNS

<u>preposition</u>	+/-	(noun determiner)	+/-	(d ad
for				
for		the		
for				ho
for		this		ho

**NONCOUNT NOUN DETERMINERS**  
**either, neither, some, little, enough, a l**

**all, my, your, his, her, its, our, their, Me**

A noncount noun not preceded by a noun group or in general.

***Exercise 1C—***

***Correct the Mistakes in the Following  
the Correct Phrases in the Blank Space***

1. for these furnitures

\_\_\_\_\_

2. for a fresh air

\_\_\_\_\_

3. with a new jewelry

\_\_\_\_\_

4. without many hot water

\_\_\_\_\_

5. with a few machinery

\_\_\_\_\_

6. of a sugar

\_\_\_\_\_

7. by mails

\_\_\_\_\_

8. with too many junk

\_\_\_\_\_

9. for a meat

\_\_\_\_\_

10. for three equipment \_\_\_\_\_

## **PREPOSITION + PRONOUN**

An object pronoun may replace a noun of

### **TO REPLACE**

the speaker

the person addressed

one male person (John)

one female person (Mary)

one thing (a book)

### **USE**

**me**

**you**

**him**

**her**

**it**

the speaker + one or more others	<b>us</b>
the people addressed	<b>you</b>
more than one person (John and Mary)	<b>them</b>
more than one thing (books)	<b>them</b>

If there is more than one object after a pronoun:

The letter is for <b>us</b> .	The letter is for <b>us</b> .
The letter is for <b>us</b> .	The letter is for <b>us</b> .
The letter is for <b>us</b> .	The letter is for <b>us</b> .
The letter is for <b>us</b> .	The letter is for <b>us</b> .
The letter is for <b>you</b> .	The letter is for <b>you</b> .
The letter is for <b>you</b> .	The letter is for <b>you</b> .

The letter is for **you**.  
The letter is for **them**.

The lett  
The lett

The letter is for **them**.

The lett

The letter is for **them**.

The lett

The letter is for **them**.

The lett

### *Exercise 1D—*

### *Change the Underlined Nouns to Pronouns*

1. She paid for the apples.
2. He is excited about the car.
3. Do you study with your classmates?
4. The rug was made by my grandmother.
5. She made it for my sister and me.
6. We will give it to our children.
7. She is very fond of that boy.
8. They put the papers in the trashcan last night.
9. Please don't step on the floor until it is dry.

10. He hopes to get a call from Sam and Mary tomorrow.
11. It won't be the same without David and Amy and you.
12. There has been a lot of tension between Susan and me.
13. She lives near John and me.
14. They have been very kind toward Sarah and the boys.
15. She seems to be getting over her problems.

—used to + basic verb means "did in the past."  
*I used to work hard when I was in college.*  
*We used to work at night, but now we work during the day.*

***Exercise 1E—***

***Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Form of the Verb:***

1. She has to decide between \_\_\_\_\_ (study) and \_\_\_\_\_ (work).
2. That machine is great for \_\_\_\_\_

(exercise) the leg muscles.

**3.** He saved a lot of money by \_\_\_\_\_  
the bus to work.

**4.** Are you used to \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) on  
freeway?

**5.** We decided against \_\_\_\_\_ (buy)  
house.

**6.** They tried to stop her from \_\_\_\_\_  
(move) so far away.

**7.** I am tired of \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (clean).

8. He is really good at \_\_\_\_\_ (play guitar).

9. She is very close to \_\_\_\_\_ (win race).

10. You had better eat something before \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the medicine.

**Choose work or working to complete the following:**

11. She isn't used to \_\_\_\_\_ on Sunday

12. He used to \_\_\_\_\_ every night

13. I am opposed to \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow

14. She is supposed to \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow

15. He admits to \_\_\_\_\_ too little.

16. He agrees to \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow  
17. We promise to \_\_\_\_\_ next week
18. He would like to \_\_\_\_\_ every day
19. They look forward to \_\_\_\_\_ here.
20. She expects to \_\_\_\_\_ here.
21. I am limited to \_\_\_\_\_ here.
22. Have you decided to \_\_\_\_\_ here?
23. They aren't used to \_\_\_\_\_ every day

## Prepositions in Questions

*A—*

### *Basic Sentences with Be*

#### STATEMENT PATTERN:

<b>subject</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>preposition</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>object</b>
The letter		is		to		John.
The letter		is		about		money
The letter		is		from		Springf
The letter		is		from		Virgini

## YES/NO QUESTION PATTERN:

<b>verb</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>	+	<b>obj.</b>
Is		the letter		to		Joh
Is		the letter		about		mc
Is		the letter		from		Sp
Is		the letter		from		Vi

## INFORMATION QUESTION PATTERN

<b>question word</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>p</b>
Who(m)*		is		the letter		t
What		is		the letter		a
Where		is		the letter		f

What state	is	the letter	f
Which state	is	the letter	f

\***Whom** is used in writing and in formal speech. **Who** is conversation.

### EXCEPTION:

The preposition at is not used with where  
time.

### STATEMENTS:

The party is at my house.

The party is at ten o'clock.

### QUESTIONS:

Where is the party? What time is the party?

***Exercise 2A—***

***Write a Question That Is Answered by Statement.***

1. Yes, the letter is from my mother.

---

2. No, I am not in Chicago.

---

3. We are from California.

---

4. They are from San Francisco.

---

5. The picture is of my sister.

---

6. The article is about dieting.

---

7. The class is at seven-thirty.

---

8. The concert is at Memorial Stadium.

---

***B—***

***Basic Sentences with Other Verbs***

## STATEMENT PATTERN:

<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>	+	<b>object</b>
She		writes		to		John.
She		asks		about		money.
She		writes		from		Springfield
She		writes		from		Virginia.

## YES/NO QUESTION PATTERN:

<b>auxiliary verb</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>
Does		she		write		to
Does		she		ask		about
Does		she		write		from

Does

she

write

from

## INFORMATION QUESTION PATTERN

<b>question word</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>auxiliary verb</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>subject</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>verb</b>
Who(m)		does		she		wri
What		does		she		ask
Where		does		she		wri
What state		does		she		wri
Which state		does		she		wri

### EXCEPTION:

The prepositions to and at are not used w

STATEMENTS:

*The letter is going to Chicago.*

*We are staying at the Forum Hotel.*

QUESTIONS:

*Where is the letter going?*

*Where are you staying?*

*Exercise 2B—*

*Write a Question That Is Answered by  
Statement.*

1. She works in the furniture department.

---

2. He calls from his office.

---

3. No, he doesn't send e-mail to me.

---

4. He sends e-mail to his boss.

---

5. Yes, he drives through Washington.

---

6. He drives through Washington.

---

7. They talk about the garden.

---



## Prepositions in Noun Clauses

A question word often connects statements (understand, wonder, ask, and tell with a 1 combination).

<b>introduction</b>	+	<b>question word</b>	+	<b>noun clause</b>
---------------------	---	----------------------	---	--------------------

I know

I don't know

Do you know	who	he is.(?)
-------------	-----	-----------

I understand

I wonder

Ask him

Tell us

## Basic Patterns for Prepositions in Noun

### A. CLAUSES WITH *BE*

<b>introduction</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>question word</b>	<b>+</b>	<b><i>noun clause</i></b>
I know		who(m)		the letter
I know		what		the letter
I know		where		the letter
I know		what state		the letter
I know		which state		the letter

### B. CLAUSES WITH OTHER VERBS

<b>introduction</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>question word</b>	<b>+</b>	<i>noun clause</i>
I know		who(m)		she will
I know		what		she asks
I know		where		she will
I know		what state		she will

### *Exercise 3—*

### *Complete Each Answer:*

**1.** Where is she from?

I don't know

---

**2.** Who(m) is he talking to?

I don't know

---

**3.** What does she write with?

I wonder

---

## Prepositions in Adjective Clauses

An adjective clause can identify a noun. The preposition follows the noun.

### *Basic Patterns for Prepositions in Adjective Clauses*

A. TO IDENTIFY A PERSON, AN ADJECTIVE CLAUSE  
BEGIN WITH **WHO(M), THAT, OR Ø**

person + introduction + *adjective clause*  
subject + preposition + verb

The man	who(m)	she	wri
The man	that	she	wri
The man	—	she	wri
The people	who(m)	we	live
The people	that	we	live
The people	—	we	live
The doctor	who(m)	I	ask
The doctor	that	I	ask
The doctor	—	I	ask

Make sure the adjective clause is right at

<i>The man who(m) she writes to</i>	<i>is my father.</i>
<i>The people that we live with</i>	<i>are nice.</i>
<i>The doctor I always ask for</i>	<i>isn't here.</i>
<i>My father is</i>	<i>the man who(m) s</i>
<i>I really like</i>	<i>the people that we</i>
<i>This is not</i>	<i>the doctor I alway</i>

B. TO IDENTIFY A THING, AN ADJECTIVE CLAUSE  
BEGIN WITH **THAT** OR **Ø**.

<b>thing</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>introduction</b>	<b>+</b>	<i>adjective clause</i>
				<b>subject + verb</b>
the book		that		I paid
the book		—		I paid
the house		that		they are
the house		—		they are
the cities		that		we won
the cities		—		we won

Be sure to put the adjective clause direct

*The book that I paid ten dollars for*  
*The house they are looking at*

*is great.*  
*is expensive*

*The cities that we work in*

*are far apart*

<i>I really like</i>	<i>the book I paid ten dollars for.</i>
<i>They might buy</i>	<i>the house they are looking at.</i>
<i>We love</i>	<i>the cities we work in.</i>

***Exercise 4—  
Combine Each Set of Sentences into One  
Adjective Clause.***

1. The man is my father. She writes letter

---

2. The house is beautiful. My friends are

---

**3.** Those are the children. My daughter pl

---

**4.** The teacher isn't here. We talked to he:

---

**5.** The piano is fabulous. He paid a lot of

---

**6.** I am looking for the boy. I gave five dc

---

**7.** She likes the neighbor. She goes to the

---

**8.** I lost the bag. I put my money in it.

---

**9.** I found the jacket. I took my keys out o

---

**10.** He can't remember the street. He parl

---

## Phrasal Verbs

A phrasal verb is a verb followed by a particle that changes the meaning of the verb. Learn them together as one unit.

There are three types of phrasal verbs—nonseparable separable intransitive

Each has its own set of word-order patterns.

## **NONSEPARABLE COMBINATIONS**

Example: look for means "search."

## Word order:

The object—noun or pronoun—immediate

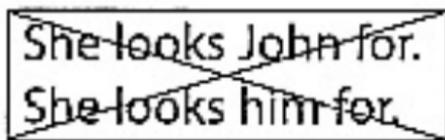
## Statement Pattern:

**subject + verb-preposition + noun or pronoun**

She is looking for John.

She is looking for him.

Incorrect:



**Question Pattern 1:** Use with what, whi

<b>question word</b>	+	<b>auxiliary verb</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>
What		are		you		looking
Which book		were		you		looking
Who(m)		are		you		looking
Whose book		did		you		look

## **Question Pattern 2:** Use with why, when, how long, where

<b>question word</b>	+	<b>auxiliary verb</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>
Why		are		you		looking
When		did		you		look
How long		have		you		been looking
Where		have		you		looked

Incorrect:

~~Why are you looking John for?~~

~~Why are you looking him for?~~

## *Noun Clauses*

**Pattern 1:** Use with what, which, who(m)

<b>introduction</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>question word</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>(object)</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>no</b>
I don't know		what		book		you
I don't know		which		book		you
I don't know		who(m)				you
I don't know		whose		book		you

**Pattern 2:** Use with why, where, when, :

<b>introduction</b>	+	<b>question word</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+
I don't know		why		you	
I don't know		where		you	
I don't know		when		you	
I don't know		how		you	

## Adjective Clauses

### Pattern 1:

<b>subject</b>	+				<i>adjecti</i>	
		<b>who(m)</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>
		<b>that</b>				
		<b>Ø</b>				
The man		who(m)		he		was lo
The book		that		he		was lo

## Pattern 2:

subject + verb + object + *adjective clause*

who(m)  
that

∅

I see the man who(m)

We found the book that

## Examples of Nonseparable Combinations

act like, ask for

beg off, break into

call on, care about, care for, check into, c

fall for, fall off

get around, get off, get in, get on, get over

go for, go over, go through, go with  
hear from, hear of

keep at, keep off, keep on

lay off, live for, live on, live through

look after, look at, look for, look into, look

pick at, pick on

run across, run by, run for, run into, run o

see through, see to, show through, stand b

take after

***Exercise 5A—***

***Rewrite Each Sentence, Changing the***

1. We asked for *the information*.

---

2. She is going to call on *Mary and Caro*

---

3. They just got on *the bus to Chicago*.

---

4. I came across *some old family picture*

---

5. The policeman is coming after *you and*

---

6. She ran into *some old friends* at the ma

---

7. I am going to stand by *my friend*.

---

**8.** He just went through *all his papers*.

---

**9.** We are looking for *Jason's wallet*.

---

**10.** That boy takes after *his father*.

---

***Exercise 5B—******Write a Question for Each of the Sentence  
Exercise.***

Example:

1. What did you ask  
for \_\_\_\_\_

2. Whom  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Which bus**

---

**4. What**

---

**5. Who(m)**

---

**6. Who(m)**

---

**7. Who(m)**

---

**8. What**

---

9. Whose

---

10. Whom

---

*Exercise 5C—*

*Use the Phrasal Verb and Tense Indica  
Sentence:*

1. I don't know what you

---

(look for, present progressive)

2. He asked me what I

---

(go through, past progressive)

3. She didn't tell us which hotel she

---

(check into, past perfect)

4. I want to know whom he

---

(care about, present)

5. I wonder what office she

---

(run for, present progressive)

***Exercise 5D—***

***Complete Each Sentence Using an Adj***

1. He was looking for a book.

This is the book

---

**2.** Somebody broke into a house on this s  
Is that the house

---

**3.** She hopes to hear from that company s  
What is the name of the company

---

## *Noun Clauses*

**Pattern 1:** Use with why, when, how, an

<b>introduction</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>question word</b>	<b>+</b>	<b><i>noun clause</i></b>
				<b>subject</b>
I don't know		why		he
I don't know		when		he
I don't know		how		she
I don't know		where		she

Incorrect:

~~I don't know why he crossed out it.  
I don't know how he looked up her.~~

**Pattern 2:** Use with why, when, how, an

**introduction** + **question word** + **subject**

I don't know why he

I don't know when he

I don't know how she

I don't know where she

**Pattern 3:** Use with what, which, who(n)

**introduction** + **question word** + **object**

I don't know what

I don't know  
I don't know

what  
which

mistake  
mistake

I don't know

whom

I don't know

whose

name

## Adjective Clauses

### Pattern:

**subject** + **verb** + **object** +

**that who**

$\phi$

This is the mistake

that

This is the mistake

He is the friend

whom

He is the friend



## Examples of Separable Combinations:

ask out

blow down, blow out, blow up

break down, break in, break up

bring about, bring back, bring down, bring up

call back, call off, call up, carry out, carry up

cheer up, chew out, clean up, cross out, cross up

do in, do over, draw up, drop by, drop in

figure out, fill in, fill out, fill up, find out, find up

get across, get back, get in, get off, get on, get up

give back, give out

hand in, hand out, hand over, hang up, hang on

keep on, keep up, kick around, kick out, kick up

leave out, let down, look over, look up

make up, mark down, mark up, mix up  
name after

pass in, pass on, pass out, pass over, pass

pay back, pick out, pick over, pick up, pe

put back, put down, put on, put off, put ou

rip off, round off, run by, run down, run u

see through, set up, show around, show u

take back, take down, take for, take in, ta

take up

tear down, tear off, tear out, tear up, think

try out

turn around, turn down, turn in, turn off, t

wake up, wash out, wear out, work out, v

### *Exercise 5E—*

### *Rewrite Each Sentence, Changing the*

1. The wind blew down two trees.

The wind blew them down.

2. The teacher came in and broke up the

---

3. Don't bring up that subject.

---

4. Are you going to call off the wedding?

---

5. We will clean up the mess.

---

6. I have to fill out these forms.

---

7. She is trying to get the mud off her shoe.

---

8. Did you give back the money?

---

9. We looked up your sister in Pittsburgh

---

10. He always mixes up the twins.

---

*Exercise 5F—*

*Rewrite Each Sentence Two Ways, Changing the  
Nouns Indicated:*

1. They looked it over. (the new house)

They looked the new house over.

They looked over the new house.

2. We are going to pass them in. (our paper)

---

3. He has to pay it back. (the money)

---

4. Did they kick her out? (Jennifer)

---

5. I hope she doesn't pass it up. (this opportunity)

---

*Separable Combinations with an Additive*

When another preposition is added to a sentence with a verb, noun, or pronoun, the preposition always goes between the verb and the noun or pronoun.

Pattern: verb + noun/pronoun + preposition

Example: to take out of—to remove something from a container

Statement:

*He took the money out of his pocket.*  
*He took it out of his pocket.*

Question:	<i>What did he take <u>the money</u> out of? Which pocket did he take <u>it</u> out of?</i>
Noun Clause:	<i>I don't know which pocket he took it out of. I don't know which pocket he took it out of.</i>
Adjective Clause:	<i>This is the pocket (that) he took it out of. This is the pocket he took <u>it</u> out of.</i>

Example: to give back to—to return something

Statement:	We gave <u>the letter</u> back to her.
Question:	Who(m) did you give <u>the letter</u> back to? give <u>it</u> back to?
Noun Clause:	I don't know who(m) we gave it back to. I don't know who(m) we gave <u>it</u> back to.

Adjective Clause: She is the girl who(m) we gave  
gave the letter back to.

Examples of Separable Combinations wi  
bring down on, bring up to  
check out of  
get back from, get out of, give back to  
hand in to, hand out to, hand over to, hang  
mix up with  
run out of  
take away from, take out of, tear out of  
wash out of, write down on

***Exercise 5G—***

***Change Each Statement into a Yes/No  
Underlined Nouns to Pronouns.***

1. He brought the books up to the fourth f

Did he bring them up to the fourth floor?

2. She is going to check some books out of the library.

---

3. He is trying to get the spot out of his skin.

---

## INTRANSITIVE COMBINATIONS

Example: act up—"misbehave"

There is no object; the word following the adverb.

### *Statement Pattern:*

**subject** + **verb** + **adverb**

The child            acted            up

### *Question Pattern:*

**(question word) + auxiliary verb + subject +**  
Why did the child

### *Noun Clause Pattern:*

**introduction + question word + subject + verb**  
I don't know why the child acted

### *Adjective Clause Pattern:*

**subject + who that + verb + adverb + v**  
The child who acted up is

## Examples of Intransitive Verb + Adverb

act up, add up

back down, back off, back up, blow away

over, blow up

break down, break in, break out, break up

burn up, butt in

calm down, carry on, catch on, catch up,

out, cheer up, chicken out

chip in, clam up, close down, close in, cl

come about, come out, come through, con

down, crop up, cut back

drag on, drop by, drop in, drop off, drop

eat out

fall down, fall off, fall out, fall over, fall

find out

get about, get along, get around, get away

get on, get out, get through, get up

give in, give up

go about, go by, go on, go out, go through

goof off, grow up

hang around, hang out, hang up, hear of

keep in, keep out, keep up, kick in

live on, look in, look out, luck out

make out, make up

nod off

pan out, pass away, pass out, pick up, pul

run around

show up, slip up, stand by, stand out, star  
take off, take over, throw up, try out, turn  
wake up, watch out, work out

*Exercise 5H—*

*Rewrite Each Sentence, Using an Intra  
in Place of the Underlined Verb.*

1. The children misbehaved.

The children acted up.

2. I hope the boss doesn't lose his temper

---

3. The thieves entered the building by force

---

4. Please try to be still and quiet.

---

5. Do you think they will understand the reasons

---

6. What time did you fall asleep?

---

**7.** It is important to become mature.

---

**8.** Those kids act silly and do nothing all

---

**9.** Do not trespass!

---

**10.** We passed the exam; we were very f

---

## *Intransitive Verb-Adverb Combination.*

**Example 1:** to get along with—to live in

<b>Statement:</b>	<i>She gets along with her room</i> <i>She gets along with them.</i>
<b>Question:</b>	<i>Who(m) does she get along w</i>

Noun Clause: *It doesn't matter who(m) she*  
Adjective Clause: *Those are the roommates [wh*

Example 2: to get through with—to finish

Statement: *They have to get through with*  
*They have to get through with*  
Question: *What do they have to get thro*  
Noun Clause: *I don't care what they have to*  
Adjective Clause: *These are the exams (that) th*  
*with.*

Examples of Verb-Adverb-Preposition C

add up to

back down from, bone up on, break up w

carry on with, catch on to, catch up with,

down on, come

down with, crack down on, cut back on

drop in on, drop out of

face up to, fall in with, fall out of, feel up

get ahead of, get along with, get around to

get out of, get

through with, give up on

go around with, go in for, go out for, go o

hang around with, hang out with, hang up

keep away from, keep up with

look back on, look down on, look in on, l

make up with

put up with

run around with, run out of

stand in for, stand up for, stand out from,

take off from, take over from, try out for

***Exercise 5I—***

***Rewrite Each Sentence, Using a Verb-  
Place of the Underlined Words.***

1. My sister is going to stop dating her boyfriend.

My sister is going to break up with her boyfriend.

2. I don't understand how she tolerates her boyfriend's behavior.

---

3. He is looking for another teacher to substitute for him.

---



**pullover**—a sweater that you put on by pulling it over your head

*Pullovers are comfortable and attractive.*

**pushover**—a gullible person

*Her husband is a pushover; he will buy anything from a slick salesman.*

**rip-off**—a high price for something of lesser value

*He paid too much for that antique chair; it was a rip-off.*

**show-off**—a person who constantly demonstrates his talents

*I don't like to dance with him because he is a big show-off.*

**stand-in**—a substitute

*The stand-in for the main actor did a great job.*

**step up**—an improvement in status

*The new house is a step up for him.*

**takeoff**—departure of an airplane

*The takeoff was smooth, but the landing was difficult.*

**takeover**—the assumption of control, management, or responsibility of another group

*There have been a lot of takeovers of big companies this year.*

**tryouts**—auditions

*If you want to be on the team, come to the tryouts tomorrow afternoon.*

**turnaround**—a change in attitude

*When he met her he went from depressed to cheerful; it was a complete turnaround.*

**turnout**—the number of people attending an event

*The turnout for the office picnic was great; almost everybody came.*

**workout**—a session of exercise

*A daily workout can improve your disposition.*

**write-up**—an article in a newspaper or a magazine

*There was a big write-up about our friend in last week's paper.*

### *Exercise 5J*

*Write the Appropriate Nouns in the Blanks.*

1. Our tire burst on the highway. We

had a \_\_\_\_\_.

**2.** My friend is going to a psychologist to try to get rid of her \_\_\_\_\_.

**3.** The beach is private and quiet; it is a perfect \_\_\_\_\_ for a busy couple.

**4.** The woman carefully applied lipstick, powder, and mascara; she was an expert at putting on \_\_\_\_\_.

**5.** She paid two thousand dollars for that old, broken-down car. What a \_\_\_\_\_!



### ***Exercise 5K***

***Fill in Each Blank with a Verb-Preposition Combination Used as an Adjective:***

1. You can pay for your groceries at the \_\_\_\_\_ counter.
2. I'm cooking dinner at home tonight; I'm really tired of \_\_\_\_\_ food.
3. Whenever I check into a hotel, I ask

for a \_\_\_\_\_ call for the next morning.

**4.** The politicians promised to help clean up the \_\_\_\_\_ neighborhoods around the city.

**5.** It is very convenient to deposit your checks at a \_\_\_\_\_ bank.

## Prepositions as Prefixes in Nouns, Adjectives, and Verbs

In the following examples, a preposition has been added to the beginning of the original word, making it more specific.

### NOUNS

**by-line**—a line at the beginning of an article with the author's name

*His article was published, and he*

*was pleased to see his name on the by-line.*

**bypass**—a route that goes around a city, rather than through it

*Taking the bypass saves a lot of time.*

—a surgical operation that avoids the main organ

*Her father had a heart bypass last month.*

**back-up**—someone who can substitute if necessary

*I think I am well enough to do the job; if not, my colleague is here as a back-up.*

**downgrade**—a change to a lower quality

*His new position is a downgrade in salary, but he is happier.*

**downpour**—a heavy rain

*The streets are flooded after that downpour yesterday.*

**downtown**—the heart of a city

*Let's go downtown tonight and have fun.*

**downswing**—a reduction in business activity

*There was a downswing in the first quarter of the year.*

**input**—the contribution of ideas  
*We really need your input for this proposal.*

**off-chance**—an unlikely possibility  
*He called me on the off-chance that I would be available.*

**off-shoot**—a branch  
*That group is an off-shoot of a national organization.*

**outbreak**—an eruption  
*There has been an outbreak of the flu in this city.*

**outlaw**—a criminal

*The cowboy films always have heroes and outlaws.*

**outpost**—a place of business far away from city life

*His store is a little outpost in the middle of nowhere.*

**outpouring**—an abundance

*There was an outpouring of sympathy for the widow.*

**output**—production

*Our output for the month was huge; we made a lot of money.*

**overkill**—failure caused by too much effort

*The salesman talked so much that the client lost interest; it was complete overkill.*

**overpass**—a bridge that extends over a road

*An overpass is being built at that intersection; it will ease the traffic situation.*

**throughway**—highway

*You should go on the throughway;  
it's much faster.*

**underdog**—the team or person not  
expected to succeed

*It's exciting when the underdog  
wins in a tournament.*

**underpass**—a road built underneath  
another road

*To get on the main highway, you  
need to get on the underpass first.*

**underpinnings**—foundation

*If the underpinnings are strong, the building will be safe.*

**update**—the latest information

*The television stations are giving us an update on the tragedy every five minutes.*

**upheaval**—a disruption

*There is a big upheaval going on in our office; a lot of people are being transferred.*

**upstart**—ambitious newcomer

*The new assistant tried to change*

*our office procedures during her first week. What an upstart!*

**upsurge**—increase in activity

*There was an upsurge during the second quarter, thank goodness!*

**upswing**—increase in activity

*There has been a steady upswing this year.*

Certain expressions use prepositions in noun form.

**the ins and outs**—all of the details

*After owning a restaurant for twenty years, he knows all the ins and outs*

*of the business.*

**the ups and downs**—the good things  
and the bad things

*We learn to cope with the ups and  
downs of life.*

*Exercise 6A—*

*Fill in Each Blank with a  
Preposition-Noun Combination:*

1. That business lost money during the  
\_\_\_\_\_ in August.

2. The arrival of tourists in the spring  
means a big \_\_\_\_\_ in  
business activity.

**3.** At the meeting they asked for \_\_\_\_\_ from everybody in the department.

**4.** Our boss gives us an \_\_\_\_\_ on the company's activities at the end of every month.

**5.** You'd better get a flu shot in case there is an \_\_\_\_\_ of the flu next winter.

**upbeat**—in a good mood

*Everybody is upbeat because of the holidays.*

**upmarket**—stylish and expensive

*The new mall has only upmarket shops; there are no discount stores there.*

In the following expressions, prepositions are used in the form of adjectives:

**the down side**—the negative aspect  
*The down side of my new job is that I have to work on Saturdays.*

**the inside story**—information known only by the people concerned  
*The tabloid newspapers always claim to have the inside story, but it is usually only speculation.*

**the in crowd/thing/place**—what is currently popular  
*In high school, she was always part of the in crowd.*  
*Body piercing was the in thing in the early nineties.*  
*That nightclub is the in place for the over-thirty crowd.*

**the up side**—the positive aspect  
*The up side of the new job is that there will be a lot of international travel.*

**Exercise 6B—**  
*Fill in Each Blank with a Preposition-Adjective Combination with the Indicated Meaning:*

1. We were \_\_\_\_\_ (thrilled) at the news.
2. She got the information through her \_\_\_\_\_ (Internet) contacts.

3. Many people are \_\_\_\_\_  
(given too much work) and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (given very low  
wages).

4. Her new boyfriend is friendly and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (extroverted).

5. During the interview they explained  
the \_\_\_\_\_ (positive) side  
and the \_\_\_\_\_ (negative)  
side of working there.

## **VERBS**

In the following examples, a  
preposition has been added to the

beginning of a verb, giving it more specific meaning.

**bypass**—to go around a city to avoid the downtown traffic

*If you are in a hurry, you can bypass Philadelphia by taking the alternate route.*

**downgrade**—to lower in quality or status

*They downgraded her job, so she is looking for another one.*

**download**—to add software to a computer

*She downloaded a new program this*

*morning.*

***Exercise 6C—******Fill in Each Blank with an  
Appropriate Preposition-Verb  
Combination:***

1. In an effort to save money, they are going to \_\_\_\_\_  
(decrease the status of) a lot of jobs.

2. I hope they can \_\_\_\_\_  
(conquer) all of their difficulties.

3. That team didn't have enough

players and they had to  
\_\_\_\_\_ (cancel  
participation) from the tournament.

**4.** He bought her a huge diamond ring,  
hoping to \_\_\_\_\_  
(surprise and impress) her.

**5.** Do you think they will ever  
\_\_\_\_\_ (prohibit) guns in  
this country?

# **PART FOUR— ANSWERS AND GLOSSARY**

# Answers to Exercises

## Part Two

*1.*

1. in, in, on, at, in

2. since

**3.** for

**4.** at, on, by

**5.** on, of, for/in

**6.** on, at around/at, until

**7.** at, in

**8.** after

**9.** through/during

**10.** during

**11.** At

**12.** up

**2A.**

**1.** on

**2.** in

**3.** near

**4.** far from

**5.** over

**6.** in back of/behind

**7.** at the top of

**8.** at the bottom of

**9.** next to

**10.** against

**11.** between

**12.** among

**2B.**

in, in, at, on, at, on, in, at, at, at, in, in,  
at, on, at, in, on, in

**3.**

**1. across**

**2. up**

**3. over**

**4. away from**

**5. out of**

**6. down**

**7.** back to

**8.** into

**9.** toward

**10.** through

**11.** along

**12.** past

**13.** around

**14.** onto

**15. off**

**4.**

**1. about**

**2. over**

**3. under**

**4. between**

**5. plus**

**6. from**

**7.** into

**8.** of

**5.**

**1.** in

**2.** in

**3.** during

**4.** on

**5.** in

**6. on**

**7. During**

**8. On**

**9. In**

**10. on**

**6.**

**1. in**

**2. on**

**3.** on

**4.** in

**5.** in

**6.** in

**7.** on

**8.** in

**9.** on

**10.** on

**7.**

**1. of**

**2. on**

**3. in**

**4. on**

**5. of**

**6. in**

**7. of**

**8. on**

**9. in**

**10. on**

**8.**

**1. like**

**2. above**

**3. about**

**4. of**

**5.** about

**6.** about

**7.** with

**8.** of

**9.** like

**10.** with

**9.**

**1.** in

**2.** on

**3.** with, on

**4.** have, on

**5.** in

**6.** on

**7.** in

**8.** with, on

**9.** on

**10.** in

***10.***

**1.** about

**2.** about/over

**3.** about

**4.** in

**5.** about

**6.** on

**7.** in

**8.** at

**9.** in

**10.** on

**11. over**

**12. in**

**13. at**

**14. of/about**

**15. over**

**16. in**

**17. at**

**18. of**

**19.** on

**20.** about

***11.***

**1.** to

**2.** for

**3.** on

**4.** for

**5.** to

**6.** to/for

**7.** for

**8.** to

**9.** to

**10.** for

**11.** for

**12.** to/for

***12.***

**1.** out of

**2.** under

**3.** in

**4.** at

**5.** on

**6.** in

**7.** in

**8.** on

**9.** on

**10.** in

**11.** in

**12.** on

**13.** out of

**14.** in

**15.** under

*13.*

**1.** of

**2.** out of/from

**3.** with

**4.** from

**5.** of

**6.** off

**7.** out of

**8.** from

**9. off**

**10. of**

***14.***

**1. of**

**2. for**

**3. to**

**4. for**

**5. at/with**

**6.** about

**7.** at

**8.** in

**9.** of

**10.** of

**11.** with

**12.** about

**13.** about

**14.** for

**15.** about

***15A.***

**1.** with

**2.** about

**3.** to

**4.** on

**5.** to

**6.** to/with

**7.** with

**8.** with

**9.** to

**10.** about

***15B.***

**1.** to

**2.** with

**3.** toward

**4.** on

**5.** to

**6.** to

**7.** on

**8.** at

**9.** about

**10.** with

***15C.***

**1. in**

**2. with**

**3. in**

**4. in**

**5. in**

**6. in**

**7. with**

**8. in**

**9. with**

**10. with**

### **Part Three**

***1A.***

**1. with a pen**

**2. for a girl/for this girl/for that girl/for another girl**

**3.** to Mary's cousin

**4.** without a book

**5.** from a nice boy

**6.** between Mary and another girl

**7.** in Mary's house

**8.** for another apple

**9.** next to a/the tall boy

**10.** near Mr. Johnson's house

## ***1B.***

- 1.** for three apples
- 2.** without friends
- 3.** in the United States
- 4.** from many countries
- 5.** to lots of places/to a lot of places
- 6.** except these exercises
- 7.** with other friends

8. at plenty of stores

9. by other teachers

10. from the Smiths

*1C.*

1. for this furniture

2. for fresh air

3. with new jewelry

4. without much hot water

**5.** with a little machinery

**6.** of sugar

**7.** by mail

**8.** with too much junk

**9.** for meat

**10.** for equipment

***1D.***

**1.** them

**2. it**

**3. them**

**4. her**

**5. us**

**6. them**

**7. him**

**8. it**

**9. it**

**10.** him and her/them

**11.** you

**12.** her and me/us

**13.** us

**14.** them

**15.** them

***1E.***

**1.** studying, working

**2.** exercising

**3.** taking

**4.** driving

**5.** buying

**6.** moving

**7.** cooking, cleaning

**8.** playing

**9.** winning

**10.** taking

**11.** working

**12.** work

**13.** working

**14.** work

**15.** working

**16.** work

**17.** work

**18.** work

**19.** working

**20.** work

**21.** working

**22.** work

**23.** working

**24.**

**1.** Is the letter from your mother?

**2.** Are you in Chicago?

**3.** Where are you from?/What state are you from?

**4.** What city are they from?

**5.** Who is the picture of?

**6.** What is the article about?

**7.** What time is the class?

**8.** Where is the concert?

***2B.***

**1.** What/Which department does she

work in?

**2.** Where does he call from?

**3.** Does he send e-mail to you?

**4.** Who(m) does he send e-mail to?

**5.** Does he drive through Washington?

**6.** What city does he drive through?

**7.** What do they talk about?

**8.** Who(m) do they discuss it with?

**9.** Where does he go every summer?

**10.** Who(m) does she make cookies for?

**11.** Where does he work?

**12.** What time does he work?

**3.**

**1.** where she is from.

**2.** who(m) he is talking to.

**3.** what she writes with.

4. who(m) they live with.
5. who(m) this letter is for.
6. what he does that for.
7. what company she works for.
8. which bus she is coming on.
9. who(m) she writes letters to.
10. which courses I am registered for.

**1.** The man [who(m)] she writes letters to is my father.

**2.** The house (that) my friends are looking at is beautiful.

**3.** Those are the children [who(m)] my daughter plays with.

**4.** The teacher [who(m)] we talked to yesterday isn't here.

**5.** The piano (that) he paid a lot of money for is fabulous.



- 6.** I am looking for the boy [who(m)] I gave five dollars to.
- 7.** She likes the neighbor [who(m)] she goes to the movies with.
- 8.** I lost the bag (that) I put my money in.
- 9.** I found the jacket (that) I took my keys out of.
- 10.** He can't remember the street (that)

he parked on.

**5A.**

**1.** We asked for it.

**2.** She is going to call on them next week.

**3.** They just got on it.

**4.** I came across them.

**5.** The policeman is coming after you.

**6.** She ran into them at the mall.

**7.** I am going to stand by him/her.

**8.** He just went through them.

**9.** We are looking for it.

**10.** That boy takes after him.

***5B.***

**1.** did you ask for?

**2.** is she going to call on?

**3.** did they just get on?

**4.** did you come across?

**5.** is the policeman coming after?

**6.** did she run into at the mall?

**7.** are you going to stand by?

**8.** did he just go through?

**9.** wallet are you looking for?

**10.** does that boy take after?

**5C.**

1. are looking for.
2. was going through.
3. had checked into.
4. cares about.
5. is running for.

**5D.**

1. he was looking for.

2. somebody broke into.
3. she hopes to hear from?
4. the teacher picks on.
5. I have never heard of.

***5E.***

1. The wind blew them down.
2. The teacher came in and broke it up.
3. Don't bring it up.

**4.** Are you going to call it off?

**5.** We will clean it up.

**6.** I have to fill them out.

**7.** She is trying to get it off her shoes.

**8.** Did you give it back?

**9.** We looked her up in Pittsburgh.

**10.** He always mixes them up.

***5F.***

**1. They looked the new house over./They looked over the new house.**

**2.** We are going to pass our papers in./We are going to pass in our papers.

**3.** He has to pay the money back./He has to pay back the money.

**4.** Did they kick Jennifer out?/Did they kick out Jennifer?

**5.** I hope she doesn't pass this opportunity up./I hope she doesn't pass up this opportunity.

## **5G.**

- 1.** Did he bring them up to the fourth floor?
- 2.** Is she going to check them out of the library?
- 3.** Is he trying to get it out of his shirt?
- 4.** Did we get them back from the dry cleaners?
- 5.** Is he going to hand it in to the manager tomorrow?

**6.** Should you hang it up?

**7.** Does she mix it up with her fingers?

**8.** Are the police going to run them out of town?

**9.** Does she take them out of the car herself?

**10.** Did I write it down on a scrap of paper?

***5H.***

**1.** The children acted up.

**2.** I hope the boss doesn't blow up because we are late.

**3.** The thieves broke in.

**4.** Please try to calm down.

**5.** Do you think they will catch on?

**6.** What time did you drop off?

**7.** It is important to grow up.

**8.** Those kids hang around all day.

**9.** Keep out!

**10.** We passed the exam; we lucked out.

**51.**

**1.** My sister is going to break up with her boyfriend tonight.

**2.** I don't understand how she puts up with her new roommate.

**3.** He is looking for another teacher to fill in for him tomorrow.

**4.** The doctor told her to cut back on coffee.

**5.** If you have a cold, you should keep away from/stay away from other people as much as possible.

**6.** It is hard for the smaller children to keep up with the big ones.

**7.** We have to go to the store; we have run out of milk for the baby.

**8.** The children are worn out from playing all day.

**9.** They will have to face up to the facts.

**10.** We all look up to our boss.

**5J.**

1. blowout

2. hang-ups

3. getaway

4. makeup

5. rip-off

**6.** show-off

**7.** tryouts

**8.** hangout

**9.** workout

**10.** write-up

**5K.**

**1.** check-out

**2.** carry-out/take-out

**3. wake-up**

**4. run-down**

**5. drive-through**

**6A.**

**1. downswing**

**2. upsurge**

**3. input**

**4. update**

**5. outbreak**

**6B.**

**1. overjoyed**

**2. on-line**

**3. overworked, underpaid**

**4. outgoing**

**5. up, down**

**6C.**

**1. downgrade**

**2. overcome**

**3. withdraw**

**4. overwhelm**

**5. outlaw**

# Glossary

	an absence	of
	be abhorrent	to
	in one's absence	
	to abuse someone	(all) thr
	from one's accent	
	be acceptable	to
	in acceptance	
	be accessible	for
	in accord	with

	on account	of
	on account	of
	in accounting	
	be accustomed	to
	an ache	in one's
	be aching	with
	to act	against
	to act	as
	to act	for son
	to act	like
	to act	up
	against an action	
	in action	
	go into action	
	in one's actions	
	to adapt	to

	to add	on
	to add	to
	to add	up (to)
	to add something	on (to)
	in addition	to
	in addition	
	to adhere	to
	be adjacent	to
	in administration	
	under an administration	
	to admit	to
	something/nothing adorable	about
	be beneath adultery	
	in adulthood	
	to advance	in
	in advance	
	at an advantage	

	advice	for
on the	advice	of
to	advise	about
to	advise someone	of
be	affectionate	to
be	affectionate	toward
in the	affirmative	
to	affix	to
in the	afternoon	
(all) through the	afternoon	
on nice	afternoons	
at one's	age	
under	age	
with	age	
one's	age is	against
through an	agency	

	be aghast	at
	to agree	about
	to agree	on
	to agree	to
	to agree	with
	in agreement	with
	an agreement	with
	in agreement	with
	toward an agreement	
	be ahead	of
	in aid	of
	to one's aid	
	to aim	at
	have an air	about
	in the air	
	on the air	
	with an air	

in the	air force	
by	air mail	
an	airplane	to
on an	airplane	
in an	airplane (small)	
off	alcohol	
in an	alcove	
in	alignment	with
in	alignment	
	all	along
	all	of
after	all	
in	all	
be	allergic	to
an	allergy	to
of	aluminum	

	be	amazed	
	in	analysis	
	of	anger	

	be	amazed	at
	in	analysis	
	of	anger	

	be	amazed	
	in	analysis	
	of	anger	

	be	amazed	
	in	analysis	
	of	anger	

NOTE: Numbers refer to preposition number and section			
---	--	--	--

# The Ins and Outs of Prepositions

Jean Yates

**A guidebook for ESL students**

*and all others seeking help in correct use of prepositions*

in

out

over

through

under

between

behind

on

*Analysis of 51 of the most common English language prepositions*

*Practical guidelines for correct usage*

*Hundreds of examples that place prepositions in familiar contexts*

**HARRIS'S**

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—Two or more prepositions can have the

Sometimes these prepositions are interch

Examples:

She is disappointed in her new job.

She is disappointed with her new job.

Sometimes they are not interchangeable.

Examples:

He is fascinated with his new job. (but not v

He is interested in his new job. (but not v

He is bored by his new job. (*by* or *with*,

—Many prepositions are also used in expressions whose meaning is entirely different from their predictable meanings. Expressions like these do not follow any pattern or logic, and do not allow for generalization. They must be learned as vocabulary units.

Examples: It's about time.

They are never on time.

She got here in time to see the whole show.

—A preposition in combination with another preposition can have multiple meanings.

Example:

<u>make up</u> your bed	-arrange
<u>make up</u> your face	-paint
<u>make up</u> your mind	-decide
<u>make up</u> a story	-invent
<u>make up</u> a list	-write down
<u>make up</u> the difference	-equalize
<u>make up</u> last week's homework	-do overdue work
<u>make up</u> for lost time	-compensate
<u>make up</u> with your girlfriend	-reestablish a relationship

—Different prepositions can follow the same phrasal verb and change its meaning completely.

Example:

break <u>down</u>	-collapse
break <u>in</u>	-enter by force
break <u>off</u>	-remove
break <u>out</u>	-erupt

break out of

-leave by force

break through

-establish a success

break up

-end a relationship

—New preposition combinations continue  
of the language.

Examples:

boot up

-restart a computer

key in

-type text on the

log on

-connect to the

—Preposition words are sometimes "major parts of speech."

Examples:

prepositions as nouns

I want to learn the ins and

prepositions as adjectives

The hospital has only a

There is a down side to

prepositions as verbs

I heard they were uppi

As if all this weren't enough, English sentences can also be troublesome, especially when prepositions are involved. The use of articles and pronouns, the formation of questions, adjective clauses and relative clauses can be tricky.

*The Ins and Outs of Prepositions* is designed to demystify the mystery of prepositions for those who are not English. It is a comprehensive handbook that explains in detail the 61 commonly used prepositions and their usage. It is easy to understand, and easy to use for quick reference or serious study.

Part One consists of a chapter for each of the 61 prepositions. Each chapter includes all of the predictable uses of the preposition, with typical grammar patterns and example sentences, and lists of the verbs and nouns often used for each meaning. Idiomatic expressions

phrasal verbs are also defined and illustrated with examples.

Part Two provides charts and diagrams that compare the functional usage of different prepositions. Each section includes exercises and answers. The reader should remember the guidelines.

Part Three gives formulas and examples for the use of prepositions before pronouns and adjectives and noun clauses, in questions, nonseparable combinations with verbs, and idioms of speech. Exercises at the end of each chapter provide practice with these patterns.

Part Four is an alphabetical list of over 300 prepositions, adjectives, nouns, and verbs with the prepositions that normally precede and/or follow them, with

name and section number of the text where it can be found, for further explanation of it in a sentence.

Use this book to help yourself become more familiar with the patterns of English sentences. Train yourself to use prepositions in conversations, and your ears to hear them when you read. Ask yourself if you know the meaning of each one. By all means, add new ones you hear to the lists in the sections where they are. Write down new expressions and phrasal verbs that come across them. Mastering English prepositions is a challenge, but a valuable skill that will increase your understanding and help you express yourself with confidence.

When the word *one's* is in the pattern, it can be replaced by any possessive adjective (*my, your, his, her, its, our, their*)

### **Example:**

**Pattern: to + one's + noun**

*Someone will come to your aid.*

*Someone will come to his aid.*

*Someone will come to our aid.*

When no noun determiner is used, the

symbol ø is in the pattern.

## **Example:**

**Pattern: verb + against + ø + noun**

*I drive against traffic every morning.*

The typical verbs, nouns, and adjectives listed with each pattern are the most common words that are used with the preposition. It is a good idea to think of the combinations as units. As an exercise, you may wish to write sentences with the suggested words, following the pattern and keeping the meaning of the combination in mind.



Adjectives commonly used before  
about:

**angry, anxious, bashful, concerned,  
confused, crazy, excited, glad,  
happy, mad, nervous, objective,  
optimistic, pessimistic, right, sick,  
silly, unhappy, upset, worried**

**3 About** (adverb) can mean  
**approximately.**

**Pattern: about + number**  
*It is about nine o'clock.*

*We have about ten dollars each.*

4 **About** can mean **in all parts of**.

**Pattern 1:** *be* + noun + about + noun

*There is a lot of excitement about town.*

**Pattern 2:** past participle of verb + about + noun

*Papers were scattered about the house.*

Typical past participles used before about:

**scattered, sprinkled, strewn, thrown**

## **5 About can describe a noun.**

**Pattern: *something/nothing* +  
(adjective) + about + noun**

*There is something about her that I like.*

*There is something adorable about her.*

*There is nothing nice about that.*

Adjectives commonly used before  
about:

**adorable, attractive, bad, cute,  
exotic, fascinating, familiar, fishy,  
funny, good, interesting, nice,  
peculiar, special, strange, unusual,  
weird, wonderful**

6 **About** can mean **in all directions**.

**Pattern 1: motion verb + about + noun**

*We wandered about town for a few hours.*

**Pattern 2: motion verb + about (adverb)**

*The baby crawls about the house.*

Verbs commonly used with these patterns:

**crawl, go, jump, look, move, poke, run, walk, wander**

7 **About** (adverb) can mean **almost**.

**Pattern: *be* + about + adjective**

She is about ready.

Adjectives commonly used after about:  
**complete, done, finished, perfect,  
ready, right, through**

## 8 Expressions

about + infinitive—ready to

*The show is about to begin.*

to be about time—an expression of annoyance that a person or thing has arrived late.

*"It's about time you got here," said the mother when her daughter came home late.*

to have an air about one—to seem

uncaring or unfriendly

*That new guy has an air about him.*

not about (adverb) + infinitive—not willing to

*I'm not about to sign that agreement.*

*They're not about to go home early.*

about face

1. (verb) a military command to turn halfway around, and face the opposite direction

*The sergeant ordered, "About face!"*  
*He told his men to about face.*

2. (noun) a complete change of opinion  
*He did an about face when he learned the facts.*

## 9 Phrasal verbs

bring about (separable)—cause  
*The storm brought about problems.*  
*The storm brought them about.*

come about (intransitive)—happen  
*How did that situation come about?*

to get about (intransitive)—to be able to walk  
*He is ninety years old, and he gets about very well.*

to find out about (nonseparable)—to  
get information or news about  
something

*When did you find out about the  
accident?*

## 8 Expressions

after all

1. in spite of what happened;  
nevertheless

*Our best player got hurt in the first quarter, but we played hard and won the game after all.*

2. as a justification

*Of course I am tired; after all, I have been working for twelve hours.*

after all is said and done—eventually  
*I know you feel bad now, but you  
will be glad about this after all is  
said and done.*

after one's own heart—especially  
appreciated  
*Her mother always serves us  
chocolate cake; she is a woman after  
my own heart.*

## 9 Phrasal verbs

look after (nonseparable)—take care  
of something or somebody  
*She looks after our baby on*

*weekends.*

take after (nonseparable)—be similar to an older relative

*The baby takes after his father.*

to name after (separable)—give a baby the name of someone special

*They named the baby after his grandfather.*

Typical nouns before be against:  
**age, background, height,  
inexperience, nationality, youth**

**6 Against** can mean **in contrast to**.  
*It is hard to see your black necklace  
against that dark dress.*

**7 Against** can mean **in defense of**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + against +  
noun**

*They vaccinated the children against*

*whooping cough.*

*Their heavy coats protect them against the cold.*

Typical verbs before against:  
**guard, lock up, protect, seal, vaccinate**

**8 Against** can mean **in partial payment of.**

**Pattern: noun + against + noun**  
*Enclosed is a check for \$100 against my bill.*

Typical nouns after against:  
**balance, bill, charges, debt, loan**

## 9 Expressions

against all odds/with all odds against one—having very little chance of success

*Team A was less experienced than Team B, but they won the game against all odds.*

*Many people come to this country and become successful with all odds against them.*

go against the grain—seem very wrong  
*Child abuse really goes against the grain.*

have two strikes against one—be at a strong disadvantage (In baseball, a player is eliminated after three strikes.)

*When you are poor and sick, you have two strikes against you.*

## 10 Phrasal verb

be up against (nonseparable)—be faced with opposition, trouble, or hard work

*My friend is up against a lot of problems.*

*When he started his own business, he had no idea what he was up against.*



**7 Around** (adverb) means **approximately**.

**Pattern: around + number**

*We have around twenty dollars in our pockets.*

*I'll see you at around three o'clock.*

**8 (All) around** can mean **in many directions, randomly**

**Pattern: motion verb + around + noun**

*The new teacher looked around the room.*

Verbs often used before around:  
**drive, flit, go, jump, look, march, move, play, run, search, shop, snoop, walk, wander**

**9 Around** can mean **do nothing**.

**Pattern: verb + around + place**  
*Those teenagers just hang around the mall with nothing to do.*

Verbs used before around:  
**drag, fool, goof, hang, lie, lurk, mope, sit**

## 10 Expression

give someone the runaround—avoid taking action by giving long explanations

*When I tried to return my broken air conditioner, the store manager gave me the runaround.*

## 11 Phrasal verbs

get around (intransitive)—often visit a lot of places and meet a lot of people

*He seems to know everybody; he really gets around.*

get around to (non-separable)—finally  
make the effort to do something

***One day I will get around to  
cleaning out my files.***

kick somebody a round (separable)—  
mistreat someone by controlling him or  
her

***He left that job because the boss  
always kicked him around.***

kick something a round (separable)—  
consider the pros and cons of an idea

***We are kicking around the idea of  
moving to Florida.***

show someone a round (separable)—

take someone on a tour of a place  
*He showed me around the campus  
when I first arrived.*

hang around with someone  
(nonseparable)—often be with  
someone

*She hangs around with a boy who  
lives up the street.*

run around with someone  
(nonseparable)—often go out with  
someone

*She is running around with a new  
group of friends.*



## Expression with this meaning:

make a pass at—indicate romantic interest toward

*The young man made a pass at the beautiful woman he met at the party.*

4 **At** is used to express **time**.

**Pattern:** at + specific time

*We are leaving at four thirty.*

*They went home at midnight.*

*We always eat lunch at noon.*

## **Expressions with this meaning:**

at first—when something started

*At first we thought this hike would be easy.*

at night—when it is night

*I always read or study at night.*

at once—immediately (see also  
*number at a time*, below)

*We must pack up and leave at once.*

at present—now

*At present they are sleeping.*

at last—finally

*After that long drive, we are home at last.*

at length—for a long time, thoroughly

*We discussed that topic at length at our meeting.*

at the beginning—at first, when something started

*At the beginning we tried to go too fast.*

at the end—when something ended

*At the end of the story, everybody was happy.*

at the moment—at present, now  
*I am very busy at the moment.*

at the sound, thought, **or** prospect of—  
when one experiences

*She gets nervous at the sound of his voice.*

*We shudder at the thought of moving again.*

*He is excited at the prospect of going to South America.*

(number) at a time—ratio per instance or unit

*The tall boy liked to go up the steps two or three at a time.*

at once—several things together

*Try to learn one step at a time,  
rather than three or four at once.*

5 **At** can mean **busy using** something;  
**working.**

**Pattern 1: at + the + noun**

*I have been at the computer all day.*

Nouns often used after at the:

**cash register, computer, fax  
machine, ironing board, sewing  
machine, stove, (steering) wheel**

down at the heels—shabby

*His brother looked down at the heels  
when he was without work.*

at one's mercy—in someone else's  
power

*I was at the intruder's mercy  
because he had a gun in my back.*

at one's discretion—someone's own  
decision

*We can go home when we are ready,  
at our own discretion.*

at that—

1. at that point, not any more or further  
***You did a good job; leave it at that.***

2. illogically

***We got lost, and in our hometown at that!***

be getting at—meaning, but not saying  
***The manager didn't exactly say his employer had been dishonest, but we all knew what he was getting at.***

12 Phrasal verb

pick at something (nonseparable)—try  
to remove something with one's  
fingernails

*The child picked at the scab on his  
knee.*

get someone back (separable)—do harm in return for a wrong

*He hurt my feelings, but I got him back by hanging up the phone.*

cut back (intransitive)—spend less

*With a lower salary he had to cut back.*

cut back on (nonseparable)—spend less on something

*With a lower salary he had to cut back on entertainment.*



8 **By** can mean **a lot of**.

**Pattern:** **by + the + noun**

*He gets letters **by the hundreds** every day.*

Typical nouns used after by the:  
**dozens, hundreds, thousands,**  
**truckload**

9 **By** can indicate **the extent of a win or a loss**.

*That horse won **by a nose**.*

*They lost the basketball game by three points.*

## **Expressions:**

by a mile—by a lot; to a great extent

**We won the game by a mile.**

by far—without question

**He is by far the strongest man here.**

## **10 Expressions**

by all means—certainly

*You should by all means visit the art gallery.*

(all) by oneself—alone; without help

*The children are at home by themselves.*

*The girl made the cake all by herself.*

by day—during the day; by night—  
during the night

*Most people work by day and sleep by night.*

by chance—for no apparent reason

*I saw my teacher at the mall by chance.*

by (any) chance—perhaps

*Do you by any chance have change*

*for a dollar?*

by the way—incidentally

*By the way, my aunt is coming to visit next week. Why don't you come see her?*

little by little (adverb)—slowly

*He practiced every day, and little by little, began to show improvement.*

one by one—one at a time; two by two  
—two at a time

*One by one, she picked up the pearls from her broken necklace.*

*The schoolchildren walked to the museum, two by two, holding hands.*

by profession—indicates one's job  
***He is a teacher by profession.***

by nature/by disposition—naturally  
***She is generous by nature.***  
***He is nervous by disposition.***

by reputation—indicates common  
belief  
***She is a good lawyer by reputation.***

go by the board—be ignored  
***Our suggestions for improving the  
company went by the board.***



by and by (adverb)—one day, in the future

*We'll meet again, by and by.*

by and large (adverb)—almost completely

The company is doing well, by and large.

## 11 Phrasal verbs

do well by (nonseparable)—be responsible for someone's benefit

She was a good mother; she did well by her children.

stand by (nonseparable)—to support  
She stood by me when I was in trouble.

swear by (nonseparable)—have complete faith in the worth of something  
My mother swears by that cleaning product.

drop by (intransitive)—visit without notice  
Your friends dropped by this afternoon, but you weren't here.

drop by (separable)—to deliver  
A boy dropped this package by today.

get by (intransitive)—live, but with  
difficulty  
He's feeble, but he gets by.

go by (nonseparable)—pass in front of  
We went by your house last night.

put by (separable)—store  
She put her dreams by for a while.

run by (separable)—to tell in detail  
She ran her story by me several times  
this afternoon.



let down (separable)—disappoint

*She let me down when she didn't help me with my party.*

look down on (nonseparable)—feel superior to

*The older students tend to look down on the younger ones.*

mark down (separable)—lower in price

*I bought this shirt after they marked it down to ten dollars.*

put down (separable)—insult

***She shouldn't go out with him; he puts her down all the time.***

run down (separable)—criticize negatively

***She always runs her hometown down.***

shut down (separable)—turn off a computer; end a business

***She worked all night and didn't shut her computer down until morning. They shut that shop down two years ago.***

turn down (separable)—reject

*He got a job offer today but he is going to turn it down.*

write down (separable)—put on paper for future reference

*She didn't know my phone number, so I wrote it down for her.*

**Pattern 2: verb + someone + for + noun**

*We nominated him for president of the club.*

Typical verbs:

**ask, need, nominate, send, train, want**

**Pattern 3: noun + for + noun**

*I hope they are developing a cure for the flu.*

*Do you have a good recipe for lemon*

*pie?*

Nouns often used before for:

**cure, directions, idea, instructions,  
lesson, need, pattern, plan, program,  
project, recipe, system**

**Pattern 4: *be* + adjective of  
condition + for + noun**

*I am hungry for steak and french  
fries.*

*They are ready for the ball game.*

Adjectives often used before for:

**anxious, eager, greedy, hungry,  
impatient, prepared, ready, starved,  
thirsty**

4 **For** can explain the **reason** of an action or fact.

**Pattern 1: verb + for + noun**

*He apologized for his absence.*

**Pattern 2: verb + for + gerund form of verb**

*He apologized for arriving late.*

**Pattern 3: verb + someone + for + noun**

*They rewarded her for bravery.*

*They congratulated him for graduating.*

Verbs often used before for:

**book, chide, cite, compensate,  
congratulate, criticize, expel, fine,  
get, honor, pay, praise, punish,  
reimburse, reprimand, reward, scold,  
tease**

**Pattern 4: *be* + adjective + for +  
noun**

***She is famous for her great parties.***

***She is famous for giving great  
parties.***

Adjectives often used before for:

**famous, feared, known, notorious,  
popular, loved, well-known**

**5 For** can indicate the **expected benefit** of an action.

**Pattern: verb + for + noun**

*We play soccer for fun.*

Typical nouns after for:

**exercise, fun, happiness, kicks,  
money, peace, pleasure, practice,  
relaxation, security**

## 24 Phrasal verbs

go (in) for (nonseparable)—like a lot  
*The college girls really go for Latin dancing.*

go out for (nonseparable)—audition or perform for selection  
*She went out for the softball team, but she didn't make it.*

care for (nonseparable)—love  
*She really cares for him.*

care for (nonseparable)—want

***She doesn't care for more ice cream,  
thank you.***

fall for (nonseparable)—innocently  
believe or trust

***He falls for all of her tricks.***

not stand for (nonseparable)—not  
allow

***The teacher won't stand for talking  
during a test.***

stand up for (nonseparable)—support  
publicly

***His best friend stood up for him***

*through all his problems.*

take for (separable)—consider as  
*Don't take him for a fool; he is  
really quite smart.*

differ from

***My opinion differs from his.***

distinguish from—identify in a  
comparison

***I can't distinguish her from her twin  
sister.***

tell from—identify in a comparison

***I can't tell her from her twin sister.***

know from—identify in a comparison

***I don't know her from her twin***

*sister.*

**5 From . . . to** can indicate the lowest and highest limits of an estimate;  
**between.**

**Pattern: from + number + to +  
number**

*You will earn from ten to fifteen  
dollars an hour.*

*We expect from twenty-five to thirty  
people.*

**6 From . . . to** can give the **starting  
and ending time or place.**

*We work from nine A.M. to five  
P.M.*

Common expressions with this meaning:

**from beginning to end**

**from front to back**

**from May to September**

**from one place to another**

**from one side to the other**

**from start to finish**

**from top to bottom**

7 **From** can indicate the **material** something is composed of.

**Pattern:** *be* + past participle of verb  
+ **from** + noun

*This suit was made from three different fabrics.*

*A new plant has been developed  
from those seeds.*

Past participles commonly used before  
from:

**crafted, created, derived, developed,  
fashioned, made, put together, sewn**

8 **From** can indicate a **position** for  
viewing or hearing.

*I can see the bridge from my  
window.*

*Let's try to see the problem from his  
point of view.*

*Can you hear the actors from the  
back of the auditorium?*

Expressions commonly used with this meaning:

**here, there**

**my/your/his/her/our/their point of view**

**this/that angle, position, vantage point, distance**

9 **From** can indicate a **result**.

**Pattern 1: adjective + from + gerund form of verb**

*They are exhausted from working so hard.*

Adjectives often used with this pattern:

**better, bored, drunk, exhausted, healthy, fat, sick, sore, tired, well, worse**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + from + noun**

*They knew the songs from memory.*  
*He learned his lesson from hard work.*

Typical nouns after from:

**listening, memory, hard work, studying**

**Expression:**

to suffer from—to hurt because of  
*She suffers from neglect.*

10 **From** can indicate **avoidance**.

**Pattern 1: verb + from + noun**

*Try to keep from shaking.*

*We can't hide from them any longer.*

**Pattern 2: verb + direct object +  
from + verb in gerund form**

*Try to keep him from shaking.*

*They hope to stop her from running  
away.*

Typical verbs:

**keep, prevent, stop**

**11 From can mean because of.**

**Pattern: from + noun**

*From the way he walks, I think his  
ankle is sprained.*

*From his accent, I believe he is from Boston.*

decade in + the

month in + Ø

period of the day in + the

period of time in general in +  
the

stage of life in + Ø

season in + (Ø)

year in + Ø

during general activities in +  
one's

*He lived in Arkansas  
the fifties.*

*He took his vacation i*

*I work in the morning  
We relax in the eveni*

*We lived there in the  
future.*

**adulthood, childhood**  
childhood she was alwa

**spring, summer, fall,**  
They always go to Euro

Their son was born in 1

**actions, deeds, drea**  
She is always in our the

## **Expression:**

in advance—before an event

*To get tickets to the concert, you have 1*

4 **In** can mean **after** a period of **time**.

**Pattern:** in + (number) + noun

*She will be here in five minutes.*

## **Expression:**

in no time—very soon

*He will be here in no time.*

5 **In** can mean **movement** or **transfer** from

**Pattern 1:** verb + in(to) + noun

*They went in the store.*

Verbs often used with this meaning:

**burst, butt, come, go, get, jump, move,**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + in + noun**

*Please pour the juice in the glass.*

Typical verbs:

**draw, drop, fly, lay, place, pour, pull, push, squeeze, throw**

kick in (intransitive)—contribute

*When it gets very cold, the electric heater kicks in.*

look in (on) (nonseparable)—  
occasionally check

*Will you look in on my mother every afternoon while I'm away?*

step in (intransitive)—enter

*I knocked on the door and he told me to step in.*

squeeze in (separable)—make room or time for somebody

*The doctor was busy, but he managed to squeeze me in.*

turn in (intransitive)—go to bed

*They were really tired, and had to turn in.*

take in (separable)—to make smaller

*The skirt was too big, so she took it in at the waist.*

take in (separable)—to comprehend

*I'm not sure she took in everything you were saying.*



**Pattern 2: go/get + into + noun**

*He went into a rage.*

*They got into an argument.*

Typical nouns after go into:

**expression, fit, hysterics, rage,  
tantrum**

Typical nouns after get into:

**argument, mood**

**Expressions:**

to turn into—to change into a different

form

*The water turned into ice.*

*The stranger turned into a friend.*

to turn something into—to change the form of something else

*The witch turned the prince into a frog.*

to burst into flames—to suddenly be on fire

*The trash pile burst into flames.*

**5 Into** can indicate **interest** or **occupation**.

**Pattern:** *be/go* + **into** + **noun**

*Her husband is really into football.*

*All of her daughters went into law.*

## 6 Phrasal verbs

break into (nonseparable)—begin an activity

*She was so excited that she broke into a song.*

check into (nonseparable)—get information

*After she called the police, they went to check into the situation.*

look into (nonseparable)—get information

*The lawyer promised to look into our case.*

run into (nonseparable)—to see an acquaintance by chance

*We ran into each other at the mall yesterday.*

talk into (separable)—to convince someone to do something

*She didn't want to come with us, but I talked her into it.*

**the last day of the year**  
**April of last year**

2 **Of** can name another noun.

**Pattern: the + noun + of + noun**  
*They established the city of Los Angeles.*

*It is near the Bay of Bengal.*

*I don't know the name of the school.*

3 **Of** can indicate the **location of a part.**

**Pattern: preposition + the + noun +  
of + noun**

*The passage is in the middle of the  
page.*

*I have a knot on the back of my  
head.*

*The numbers are at the top of the  
page.*

**4 Of indicates a category of  
description.**

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

1. Typical nouns used before of  
indicating **category**:

**brand, category, class, color,  
form, kind, make, pattern,  
shape, size, sort, style, type**  
*What kind of shoes are you  
looking for?*

*The color of your dress is  
beautiful.*

2. Nouns used before of  
indicating type of **container:**  
**bag, bowl, box, can, container,  
load, loaf, package, piece,  
plate, tube**  
*We bought two boxes of cereal.*

3. Nouns used before of  
indicating **sensation:**  
**feel, sense, smell, sound, taste,**

**texture**

*I didn't like the smell of that meat.*

4. Nouns before of indicating value:

**cost, price, value**

*The price of the dress was outrageous.*

5. Nouns before of indicating measurement:

**depth, height, length,**

**measurement, weight, width**

*Do you know the measurement of your waist?*

**5 Of** indicates a **number** or **proportion**.

**Pattern 1: number/adjective + of + plural noun**

*Three of the girls are our daughters.*  
*All of the women are from New York.*

Adjectives used before of:

**all numbers**

**all, another, any, both, each, either, enough, few, many, most, neither, none,**

**plenty, several, some**



**Pattern 2: to the + noun + of + noun**  
*We had a big party, to the delight of the children.*

Nouns often used before of:

**anguish, annoyance, delight, disgust, enjoyment, excitement, happiness, pleasure**

13 **Of** can indicate an **attitude** toward something.

**Pattern: be + adjective + of + noun**

*They are respectful of the environment.*

Adjectives commonly used before of:  
**ashamed, aware, certain, conscious, disrespectful, envious, fond, inconsiderate, mindful, proud, repentant, respectful, sure, suspicious, trusting, uncertain, unsure, wary**

14 **Of** can indicate a **reason**.

*I came here because of you.*

*She lost all her money on account of her husband.*

15 **Of** can describe **behavior**.

**Pattern: *be* + adjective + of + noun**

*It was very kind of Sally to help us.*

*It was cruel of him to ignore her.*

Adjectives commonly used with this pattern:

**bad, careless, conscientious, crazy, crude, cruel, delightful, evil, good, hateful, ignorant, irresponsible, kind, mean, nice, responsible, rude, selfish, sweet, thoughtful, thoughtless, typical, unconscionable**

16 **Of** can **describe** a noun by connecting it to a quality.

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

*She is a woman of honor.*

*They are people of integrity.*

Nouns of quality often used after of:

**dignity, faith, few words, good intentions, honor, integrity, high (low) morals, strength, wisdom**

## 17 Expression

right of way—the legal right to proceed before another person

*The accident was the other driver's fault because I had the right of way.*

to be off one's game—not be playing as well as usual

*The golf champion was off his game yesterday.*

to be off one's rocker—to be crazy

*She feeds caviar to her cat; I think she's off her rocker.*

**5 Off can indicate lack of contact.**

**Pattern 1: verb + off + noun**

*Please keep off the grass.*

Verbs used with this pattern:

**get, keep, lay, stay**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + off + noun**

*Please keep the dog off the grass.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**get, keep, move, take**

**6 Off means cause to stop functioning.**

**Pattern: verb + off + noun**

*Please turn off the radio.*

Typical verbs with this meaning:  
**turn, shut, switch**

## **7 Expressions**

off the record—not official or public  
*This is off the record, but I heard that our friends got married last week.*

off the charts—too high or successful to measure  
*Our ratings are off the charts.*

off the wall—unacceptable  
*I'm sorry, but your ideas are really off the wall.*

off-chance (noun)—unlikely possibility

*I stopped by, on the off-chance that you would be at home.*

off-limits (adverb)—forbidden territory

*The bars are off-limits for teenagers.*

off-color (adjective)—in very bad taste, with a sexual reference

*I can't believe that she tells so many off-color jokes.*

off-hand (adjective, adverb)—very

casual, casually

*He made a few off-hand remarks that I didn't appreciate.*

hit it off—to become friends right away

*Your sister and my brother really hit it off at the party.*

be well off—to have few problems

*Now that she has retired, she is pretty well off.*

be better/worse off—to have fewer or more problems

*She is a lot better off than she was before.*



sign off (intransitive)—to end a program

*My favorite radio announcer signs off at midnight.*

take off (intransitive)—leave

*The plane took off at four-thirty.*

take off (separable)—remove clothing

*The sweater was too warm so he took it off.*

wear off (separable)—to disappear

because of wear

*I wore off the tread on my tires  
when I drove to California.*

wipe off (separable)—to erase; to  
destroy completely

*The gunman wiped his fingerprints  
off the weapon.*

write off (separable)—to no longer  
consider something to be of value

*He wrote off his sister when she got  
into trouble.*

7 **On** means **facing**.

**Pattern:** be + on + noun

*Their house is on the beach.*

*What street is your house on?*

Typical nouns:

**beach, highway, river, road, street**

8 **On** indicates **movement to** something; **onto**.

**Pattern 1: verb + on + noun**

*It rained on your bicycle last night.*

*She jumped on the bed.*

Typical verbs before on:

**bounce, climb, fall, get, hop, jump, knock, pounce, pound, rain, stamp, step, tread**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + on + noun**

*She poured water on the plant.*

*He sprinkled salt on the meat.*

Typical verbs:

**drip, drop, load, pour, put, shower, smear, spill, splash, spray, spread, sprinkle, squirt, throw**

9 **On** indicates **travel in vehicles** in which one can walk.

*She goes to work on the bus.*

*They went on the train to Philadelphia.*

Typical nouns:

**airplane, bus, ship, train**

Typical verbs used before on:

**get, go, ride, sit, travel**

10 **On** indicates an **individual method of travel**.

*He came over on his bike.*

*She was sore from riding on a horse.*

Typical nouns:

**all fours, bicycle, foot, one's hands and knees, motorcycle, roller blades, skateboard, skates, skis, scooter, sled, snowboard, surfboard, tiptoe, tricycle**

11 **On** means **wearing**.

**Pattern 1: verb + on + noun**

*The man has on a suit and tie.*

*The lady put on her new dress.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + on + noun**

*She put the bracelet on her wrist.*

*He had a hat on his head.*

Typical verbs:

**get, have, keep, put, try, wear**

get on (intransitive)—grow old

*She is getting on; she is eighty-seven now.*

log on (intransitive)—to connect to the Internet

*She logged on to the Internet to communicate with her friend across the country.*

miss out on—lose an opportunity

*He missed out on a good party.*

pass on (separable)—tell or give to somebody else

*When you have finished reading this article, please pass it on.*

**pick on** (nonseparable)—selectively mistreat

*That teacher likes the boys but picks on the girls.*

turn on (separable)—cause to function  
*First, you have to turn the machine on.*

**7 Out of** can mean **not as usually expected**.

**Pattern:** *be* + **out of** + **noun**

*All her clothes are out of style.*

*Unfortunately, her children are out of control.*

Typical nouns used after out of:

**commission, context, control, date, fashion, focus, place, practice, reach, season, shape, style, sync, the ordinary, the way, tune**

8 **Out of** indicates the basic **ingredients** or **composition** of something.

**Pattern 1: verb + noun + out of + noun**

*She makes the skirts out of scarves.*

*He crafted the tables out of twigs.*

**Pattern 2: past participle of verb + out of + noun**

*The statue was carved out of stone.*

*That bread is made out of whole wheat flour.*

Typical verbs used before out of:

**build, carve, craft, create, fabricate,  
fashion, make, sculpt, sew, shape**

**9 Out of** can indicate a **fraction**.

**Pattern 1: number + out of + number  
+ noun**

*Nine out of ten people on that street  
have new cars.*

**Pattern 2: number + noun + out of +  
noun**

*Only three women out of the whole  
group volunteered to help.*

**10 Out of** can indicate **beyond**.

**Pattern: verb + out of + noun**

*We waved until he was out of sight.*

*He is out of touch with reality.*

Typical nouns used after out of:

**bounds, danger, hearing, line, order, sight, touch**

11 **Out of** can indicate a **reason** for action.

**Pattern: verb + out of + abstract noun**

*She invited him to the party out of kindness.*

*He only went out of curiosity.*

Typical nouns used after out of:  
**animosity, anxiety, compassion,  
cruelty, curiosity, fear, kindness,  
love, loyalty, malice, meanness,  
passion, pity, respect, spite,  
sympathy**

## 12 Expressions

out of doors—outside

*The children love to play out of  
doors.*

wash out (of) (separable)—remove from clothing with soap and water

*I tried to wash that spot out of my dress.*

watch out (for) (intransitive)—be careful

*He told her to watch out.*

*He told her to watch out for danger.*

wear out (separable)—use until ruined

*I wore my shoes out, and had to throw them away.*

work out (separable)—solve a problem in a relationship

*That couple had a lot of problems, but they worked them out.*

work out (intransitive)—do exercise

*He works out every evening.*

5 **Over** can mean **covering** something.

**Pattern:** verb + noun + over + noun

*The child wore a warm jacket over her dress.*

*The lady sewed patches over the holes.*

Typical verbs:

**drape, hang, have, paint, place, pour, pull, put, sew, spread, tape, wear**

6 **Over** indicates **control**.

**Pattern 1: *rule/preside* + over + noun**

*She rules over her family like a tyrant.*

*The chairman asked me to preside over the meeting tonight.*

**Pattern 2: *have control/power* + over + noun**

*They have no control over their actions.*

*He likes to have power over his associates.*

**7 Over** can mean location **on the other side of** something.

*That restaurant is over the state line.  
They live over the river.*

Typical verbs:

**be, be located, dwell, live, lie, reside**

**8 All over** can mean **in many parts of**  
a place.

**Pattern: verb + all + over + the +  
noun**

*They have traveled all over the  
world.*

*She looked all over the city for her  
friend.*

Typical nouns:

**city, country, field, floor, house,  
place, playground, sidewalk, state,  
street, table, town, world, yard**

Typical verbs:

**broadcast, crawl, drive, look, roll,  
run, send, spill, throw, travel, walk**

**9 Over** can mean **during**.

**Pattern 1: over + noun**

*We had an interesting discussion  
over breakfast this morning.*

Typical nouns after over:

**breakfast, coffee, dinner, drinks,  
lunch, snacks, tea**

## **Pattern 2: over + the + noun**

*They decided to read the papers over the holidays.*

*She has been sick over the last three weeks.*

Nouns commonly used with this pattern:

**holidays, summer, weekend, winter  
next (number) hours, days, weeks,  
months, years**

**last (number) hours, days, weeks,  
months, years**

take over (separable)—carry something to another place

***Please take this letter over to your neighbor.***

think over (separable)—consider the pros and cons

***Your offer interests us; we will think it over.***

turn over (intransitive)—change position from face down, face up, or vice versa

*Most babies turn over in the first six months of life.*

turn over (separable)—move something from top to bottom, or vice versa

*Some kids turned all the trash cans over last night.*

**Expression:**

to go through—to experience  
something difficult

*He is going through a divorce.*

**Pattern 2: *be* + through + with +  
noun**

*Are you through with your exams  
yet?*

Typical nouns used with this pattern:  
**course, exams, red tape, trouble**

## **Expression:**

to go through with something—to continue doing something; to not give up

*I can't believe you are still going to go through with your plans.*

**6 Through** can indicate **in all parts of a place; throughout**

**Pattern 1: verb + (all) through + the + noun**

*We walked all through the garden.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + (all) through + the + noun**

*They distributed flyers all through*

*the neighborhood.*

Typical nouns used after through:  
**building, city, country, garden,  
house, neighborhood, state, town**

**Expression:**

to go/look through something—to look  
at all the contents of something, hoping  
to find something

*I went through my files and found  
these documents.*

*I looked through my papers, but I  
couldn't find the certificate.*

Typical nouns used after through:  
**boxes, closets, correspondence,**

**drawers, files, letters, notes, papers,  
records, things**

**7 (All) through** (or throughout) can mean **during an entire event** or period.

**Pattern 1: verb + through + noun**

*Those women talked through the whole game.*

*The baby finally slept all through the night.*

Typical verbs before through:

**cheat, cry, laugh, play, sit, sleep,  
stay, talk, wait, watch, worry**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + through + noun**

*She cared for her father through his illness.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**abuse, care for, help, ignore, wait for, wait on**

Typical nouns used after through:  
**afternoon, breakfast, day, dinner, game, illness, life, lunch, meal, month, morning, night, ordeal, performance, play, time, war, wedding, week, year**



**Expressions:**

to see something through—to stay with something until it is finished. *Don't worry, we will see your project through.*

to see somebody through—to stay with somebody until he is out of trouble. *I will see you through this problem; I promise.*

8 **Through** can mean **by means of**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + through +**

**noun**

*We heard the news through friends.  
They bought that apartment through  
an agency.*

Typical nouns after through:

**agency, contacts, friends, gossip,**

**newspaper, translator**

**instruments of vision—binoculars,**

**glasses, lenses, microscope,**

**periscope**

**Expression:**

to hear something through the  
grapevine—to get news unofficially

*We heard about your engagement  
through the grapevine.*

**9 Through** can indicate a **reason**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + through + noun**

*She achieved success through determination and hard work.*

*Through an error in our accounting, we have overcharged you.*

Typical nouns after through:

**carelessness, determination, fault, frustration, generosity, greed, hard work, help, kindness, luck, misinformation, negligence, selfishness an error, a mistake**

**10 Phrasal verbs**

carry/follow through (separable)—  
complete a project

*He has some good ideas; I hope he  
can carry them through.*

carry/follow through with  
(nonseparable)—complete

*I hope he can carry through with his  
plans.*

come through (intransitive)—perform  
as one has promised

*She promised to help us; I hope she  
comes through.*

fall through (intransitive)—collapse

*All his plans to move to California  
fell through.*

show through (separable)—to give  
someone a tour of a building

*When we went to Washington our  
congressman showed us through the  
Capitol.*

4 **To** indicates a **beneficiary**.

**Pattern 1: verb + noun + to + noun**  
*They made a toast to the bride and groom.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:  
**award, dedicate, devote, give, make**

Typical nouns used before to:  
**award, dedication, gift, memorial, monument, present, plaque, remark, scholarship, statement, toast**

## **Expression:**

as a favor to—for the benefit of

We came to help you as a favor to your father.

## **Pattern 2: to + one's + noun**

*If you shout, someone will come to your aid.*

*It is to your benefit to join the credit union.*

*The police came to my rescue when my car broke down.*

**5 To** indicates an **effect on the recipient.**

**Pattern 1: *be* + noun + *to* + noun**

*He is a credit to his mother and father.*

*The airplane noise is a disturbance to the neighborhood.*

Nouns commonly used before to:

**annoyance, bother, challenge, credit, detriment, discredit, disturbance, help, nuisance**

**Pattern 2: *be* + adjective + *to* + noun**

*His calls are very annoying to me.*

Typical adjectives used before to:

**abhorrent, acceptable, annoying, beneficial, boring, confusing, crucial,**

**distasteful, detrimental, disturbing,  
fascinating, gratifying, harmful,  
helpful, hurtful, important,  
meaningful, obnoxious, pleasing,  
precious, preferable, repulsive,  
satisfying, unacceptable,  
unfavorable, unimportant, vexing,  
worrisome**

**Expression:**

to be to one's taste—to be personally  
pleasing to someone

*The apartment is large and  
expensive, but it's not to my taste.*

**Pattern 3: to + one's + noun**

*To my surprise, everybody was at  
work on Saturday.*

*To their delight, the campaign was a great success.*

Typical nouns:

**astonishment, chagrin, delight, disappointment, discomfort, disgrace, disgust, embarrassment, horror, satisfaction, surprise**

6 **To** can indicate a **reaction**.

**Pattern 1: verb + to + noun**

*She responded to my letter right away.*

*I hope you don't object to my offer of help.*



Typical adverbs:

**at an angle, close, next**

**Pattern 2: noun + *be* + adjective + noun**

*That line is parallel to this one.*

Typical adjectives:

**adjacent, parallel, perpendicular**

**Pattern 3: noun + to + noun, to indicate position**

*They sat back to back.*

*She came face to face with danger.*

**Pattern 4: number + to + number**, to give the score of a game

*The score was three to two.*

**Pattern 5: amount + to + amount**, to show equality

*There are four quarts to a gallon.*

**Pattern 6: amount + to + amount**, to show ratio

*He gets thirty miles to a gallon on the highway in his new car.*

20 **To** can indicate **restriction**.

**Pattern 1: verb + noun + to + noun**

*We limited him to three meals a day, with no snacks.*

*They confined her to jail for thirty-six hours.*

Typical verbs:

**bind, confine, hold, limit, restrict, sentence, tie**

**Pattern 2: past participle of verb (adjective) + to + noun**

*He is limited to three meals a day.*

*She is confined to jail for thirty-six hours.*

**21 Expressions**

to subscribe to—to pay for and receive a periodical regularly

*How many magazines do you subscribe to?*

*She subscribes to three daily newspapers.*

from time to time—occasionally

*He calls me from time to time.*

to be used to/to be accustomed to + noun—to have adapted

*He is dizzy because he is not used to the altitude.*

*She is nervous because she is not used to driving in traffic.*

## 22 Phrasal verbs

come to (intransitive)—regain  
consciousness

*She fainted a few minutes ago, but  
fortunately came to right away.*

see to (nonseparable)—take  
responsibility for a future action

*You don't have to make  
reservations; we will see to that.*

look forward to (nonseparable)—  
await with pleasure

*We are looking forward to seeing  
you soon.*



Typical nouns:

**control, orders, supervision,  
surveillance**

**5 Under** can indicate a **current  
situation or state:**

**Pattern 1: *be* + under +  $\emptyset$  noun**

*Those two thugs are under  
investigation by the police.*

*That problem is still under  
discussion by the board.*

Typical nouns used after under:  
**consideration, construction,  
discussion, investigation, suspicion**

**Pattern 2: *be* + under + noun**

*They are under the influence of their  
new friends.*

Typical nouns used after under:  
**circumstances, conditions,  
impression, influence**

**6 Under** can identify the **category of a noun** in written reference material.

**Pattern: *look up/find* + noun + under  
+ name of category**

*You can find my name under "Y" in  
the telephone book.*

*I looked up butterflies under  
"Insects" in my encyclopedia.*

**Expression:**

to get up (enough) energy—to try to force oneself to act

*She was exhausted, but she got up enough energy to cook dinner for her family.*

7 **Up** indicates **creativity**.

**Pattern:** verb + **up** + noun

*We dreamed up a wonderful idea.*

Typical verbs used before up:

**draw, dream, make, think**

**8 Up** can indicate **division into pieces**.

**Pattern: verb + up + noun**

*She chopped up the onions and peppers.*

*They divided up all the money.*

Typical verbs:

**break, blow, chop, cut, divide, tear**

## **9 Expressions**

up and down the room—constant movement from one side of the room to the other

*He was so nervous that he walked up and down the room all night.*

to count up to—to count as far as a number

*The baby can count up to ten already.*

to be up to date—to have current knowledge or records

*The president is up to date on all the important issues.*

*It's important to keep the files up to date.*

to make up one's mind—to decide

*Make up your mind between the red*

*dress and the black one.*

to be up to someone—to be the responsibility of someone to decide  
*I don't care what movie we see; it's up to you.*

to be up in arms (about)—to be angry  
*The employees are up in arms over the decrease in benefits.*

to be up to one's ears—to the extreme  
*Her brother is up to his ears in work.*

to be up a creek—to be in a difficult situation

*My partner left with all my money  
and now I'm up a creek.*

## 10 Phrasal verbs

act up (intransitive)—misbehave  
*The children always act up just  
before the school holidays begin.*

add up (intransitive)—make sense  
*She claims to have lots of friends,  
yet she is always alone; it doesn't  
add up.*

back up (intransitive)—reverse  
*The hardest part about driving a car  
is backing up.*



slip up (intransitive)—make a mistake  
*We intended to send the package last week, but our workers slipped up.*

stand up (intransitive)—move to one's feet; be on one's feet  
*When the president entered the room, everyone stood up.*  
*When you teach school, you have to stand up all day.*

stand up (separable)—miss a commitment without explaining

*He went to pick her up but she wasn't there; she had stood him up.*

step up (separable)—increase the speed

*Step it up a little; we need to go faster.*

take up (separable)—pursue a new interest

*She took up knitting when she was pregnant.*

take up (separable)—to shorten

*The pants are too long; we will have to take them up.*

tear up (separable)—rip into small pieces

*The letter made her so angry that she tore it up.*

throw up (intransitive)—vomit

*The poor child got sick and threw up.*

turn up (intransitive)—appear

*She is very unreliable; we never know if she will turn up.*

turn up (separable)—increase in volume or speed

*Turn the radio up; this is a great song.*

wake up (intransitive)—open one's eyes after sleeping

*What time do you usually wake up?*

wake up (separable)—cause someone to stop sleeping

*Please wake me up in the morning.*

wrap up (separable)—finish a session

*We've been practicing for three hours; let's wrap it up.*

write up (separable)—explain in writing

*His ideas were good, and they asked him to write them up.*



**Expression:**

to be blessed with—to be lucky to have

*He is blessed with good health and good looks.*

5 **With** can describe a **manner of behavior**.

**Pattern 1: verb + with + noun**

*Please handle the piano with care.*

*They accepted the proposal with enthusiasm.*

Typical nouns used after with:

**anger, care, compassion, courage,  
delight, discretion, disdain, distress,  
enthusiasm, fear, feeling, glee,  
grace, gratitude, happiness, hatred,  
humility, indifference, kindness, joy,  
love, optimism, pleasure, pride,  
regard, sadness, shame, skill,  
sympathy, tenderness, thanks,  
understanding**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + with + noun**

*She greeted us with a big smile.*

*He always starts work with a  
grumble.*

Typical nouns used after with:

**air, cry, expression, frown, greeting,  
grumble, grunt, handshake, hug,  
kiss, look, promise, question,  
shudder, sigh, smile, smirk, thank  
you, word**

**Pattern 3: *be* + adjective + with +  
noun (thing)**

***Please be careful with the piano.  
I hope he is successful with the  
mission.***

Typical adjectives:

**awkward, careful, clumsy, creative,  
dexterous, quick, skillful, slow,  
successful, talented, unsuccessful**

**Pattern 4: *be* + adjective + with + noun (person)**

*She is very patient with me.*

*He hasn't been sympathetic with her problems.*

Typical adjectives:

**awkward, belligerent, curt, flexible, forthcoming, frank, friendly, generous, helpful, honest, impatient, open, patient, stiff, sympathetic, truthful**

**6 With** can describe someone's feelings about something.

**Pattern: *be* + adjective + with +**

**noun**

*The child was bored with her toys.  
They are very happy with their new home.*

Typical adjectives used with this pattern:

**bored, comfortable, content,  
delighted, disappointed, frustrated,  
happy, impressed, pleased, satisfied,  
thrilled, uncomfortable, unhappy,  
upset**

**Expression:**

to be in love with—to have a romantic feeling toward

*He is (madly) in love with her.*



Typical nouns used after with the:  
**arrival, bills, birth, change, crime,  
death, decrease, departure, guests,  
increase, move, problems, rain,  
traffic, trouble, worries**

**Pattern 4: with + (all) + possessive  
noun or pronoun + noun**

*With all his talent, he should be  
famous.*

*She is quite popular, with all her  
beauty and charm.*

Typical nouns after with:

**beauty, charm, education, influence,  
intelligence, money, power, talent**

19 **With** can mean **despite**.

**Pattern: with + (all) + possessive  
noun or pronoun + noun**

*I love him with all his faults.*

*With all her problems, she is quite  
serene.*

20 **Expressions**

to be with someone—to follow or  
understand

*Please repeat that; I'm not with you.*

to be charged with something—to be formally accused of a crime

*The boy was charged with breaking and entering.*

Down with something—a rallying call to eliminate oppressors

*Down with the tyrants!*

Off with someone—a call for someone to leave

*Off with you, and don't come back!*

## 21 Phrasal verbs

(get) on with (nonseparable)—to start

something right away

*Let's get on with this job; I want to go home early.*

*On with the show!*

get away with—escape a misdeed without penalty

*He tore up his parking fine and got away with it.*

put up with—tolerate

*The house is beautiful, but I can't put up with the noise of the airplanes.*

*We came here in October.*

*We came here in 1997.*

—after a length of time

*She will be here in two weeks.*

**in the morning, afternoon, evening**

*They work in the morning.*

*He comes home in the afternoon.*

*We are going to go out in the evening.*

**WITH**

—at the same time as

*She wakes up with the sun.*

**OUT OF**

*We*

*We*

**AT**

**at**

*He*

—

*He*

**at**

*We*

**at**

*I a*

**AF**

**to be out of time**—to have no time left

*We didn't finish, and now we are out of time.*

to  
I'n  
hei

**to run out of time**—use up remaining time.

*We didn't eat because we ran out of time.*

## UP

**time is up**—there is no official time remaining for a specific activity.

*I sat down when the bell rang because my time was up.*

**ABOUT, AROUND, THROUGHOUT ACROSS**  
—in all areas of a place —in all are

*The clothes were thrown about the room. The toys w*  
*The papers were lying around the house.*  
*There was trash throughout the house.*

## WITH

—in the same place as someone or something else

*The baby is with the nurse.*  
*I'm going to put my bag with yours on the chair.*

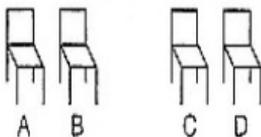


**ACROSS FROM, OPPOSITE****IN FRONT OF, AHEAD OF****IN BACK OF, BEHIND**

Chair C is **across from** Chair B.  
 Chair C is **opposite** Chair B.

Chair B is **in front of** Chair A.  
 Chair B is **ahead of** Chair A.

Chair A is **in back of** Chair B.  
 Chair A is **behind** Chair B.

**NEAR, CLOSE TO****FAR FROM****BEYOND**

Chair A is **near** Chair B.  
 Chair A is **close to** Chair B.

Chair C is **far from** Chair B.

Chair D is **beyond** Chair C.

**AT THE TOP OF****AT THE BOTTOM OF**

The X is **at the top of** the box.

The Z is **at the bottom of** the box.

**ON THE TOP OF****ON THE BOTTOM OF****ON THE SIDE OF**

The number 6 is **on the top of** the box.

The number 2 is **on the bottom of** the box.

The X and the Z are **on the sides of** the box.



**12.** We all tried to participate  
\_\_\_\_\_ the discussion.

**13.** Everybody laughed \_\_\_\_\_  
him when he put on that silly hat.

**14.** I am dreaming \_\_\_\_\_ a  
vacation at the beach.

**15.** The children are fighting  
\_\_\_\_\_ the toys.

**16.** What subjects are you interested

\_\_\_\_\_?

**17.** They are aiming \_\_\_\_\_ very high goals.

**18.** She reminds me \_\_\_\_\_ her sister.

**19.** He is totally focused \_\_\_\_\_ his job.

**20.** It's too bad they lied \_\_\_\_\_ it.

**8.** He isn't here; he's \_\_\_\_\_  
vacation.

**9.** These CDs are \_\_\_\_\_ sale  
this week.

**10.** The poor man was \_\_\_\_\_  
pain.

**11.** I hope your parents are  
\_\_\_\_\_ good health.

**12.** We were talking on the phone and

he put me \_\_\_\_\_ hold.

**13.** That car seems to be \_\_\_\_\_ control.

**14.** Our boss is \_\_\_\_\_ control of the situation.

**15.** Both boys are \_\_\_\_\_ investigation.

**11.** I am so pleased \_\_\_\_\_ the new house.

**12.** Was he embarrassed \_\_\_\_\_ the gossip?

**13.** We are optimistic \_\_\_\_\_ the future.

**14.** The students were not prepared \_\_\_\_\_ the exam.

**15.** She seems to be unhappy \_\_\_\_\_

something.

## PREPOSITION + VERB

A verb following a preposition should be (verb + ing) form.

A pencil is used for **writing.**

We are excited about **going.**

They are happy about **coming.**

I am interested in **learning.**

She takes a nap after **eating.**

He is proud of **winning.**

Be careful with the word **to**. It may be a preposition or an infinitive.

## **To** is a preposition after:

be accustomed to	She is accustomed to
be used to	She is not used to
look forward to	She is looking forward to
admit to	She admitted to
opposed to	She is opposed to
limited to	She is limited to

### More examples:

I have to get accustomed to getting up early.

She isn't used to working all day.

The child admitted to making a mistake.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

They are opposed to changing the rules.

He is limited to exercising in the morning.

To plus a basic verb forms an infinitive, preposition. Use **to + basic verb** after the

**agree, appear, ask, be supposed, decide, intend, need, offer, plan, pretend, promise, want, would like, used**

Examples:

***He agrees to help with the arrangements.***

***She appears to be hurt.***

***They asked to leave early.***

***I need to sleep.***

***We want to go home.***

***Would you like to play tennis?***

Be careful with the expressions be used to

—be used to + gerund means "be accusto

*I am used to working hard.*

*We are not used to working at night.*

**8.** They discuss it with their neighbors.

---

**9.** He goes to Europe every summer.

---

**10.** She makes cookies for her children.

---

**11.** He works at the airport.

---

**12.** He works at four o'clock.



**4.** Who do they live with?

I will ask them

---

**5.** Who(m) is this letter for?

We know

---

**6.** What does he do that for?

I don't understand

---

**7.** What company does she work for?

She will tell me

---

**8.** Which bus is she coming on?

I will ask her

---

**9.** Who(m) does she write letters to?

I don't know

---

**10.** Which courses are you registered for?

I don't understand

---

4. The teacher picks on that group of students.  
That is the group of students \_\_\_\_\_

5. I have never heard of that place.  
That is a place \_\_\_\_\_

## SEPARABLE COMBINATIONS

Examples: cross out something—"delete  
somebody—"try to find information about

**Word order:**

A noun object may follow the preposition

*He crossed out the mistake.*

*She looked up her old friend.*

A noun object may precede the preposition

*He crossed the mistake out.*

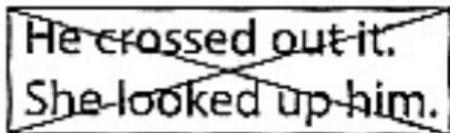
*She looked her old friend up.*

A pronoun object may precede, but not follow

*He crossed it out.*

*She looked him up.*

Incorrect:



**Question Pattern 1:**

**question word** + **auxiliary verb** + **subject** +

Why did he

Why did she

## Question Pattern 2:

**question word** + **auxiliary verb** + **subject** +

Why did he

Why did he

Why did she

Why did she



4. We got our clothes back from the dry c

---

5. He is going to hand his letter of resigna

---

6. You should hang your coat up on the ha

---

7. She mixes the dough up with her finger

---

8. The police are going to run the ruffians

---

**9.** She takes the groceries out of the car h

---

**10.** I wrote your number down on a scrap

---

4. The doctor told her to drink less coffee

---

5. If you have a cold, you should avoid oil

---

6. It is hard for the smaller children to man

---

**7.** We have to go to the store; we have ex baby.

---

**8.** The children are exhausted from playin

---

**9.** They will have to confront the facts.

---

**10.** We all respect and admire our boss.

---

## PHRASAL VERBS USED AS NOUNS

Many phrasal verbs are commonly used as nouns.

There are three ways to write these nouns:

—as two separate words

Example: a **rip off**—a robbery

*I had to pay fifteen dollars to park my car.*

—with a hyphen between the two words

Example: a **stand-in**—a substitute

*She worked as a stand-in when the main actor was unavailable.*

—as one word

Example: a **turnout**—the size of an audience

*We had a great turnout for our baseball game.*

Unfortunately, there is no good rule or guideline for using any of the three forms to use. Many organizations specify the usage they prefer.

Use these combinations as singular or plural nouns and descriptive adjectives as usual.

Examples of Phrasal Verbs Used as Nouns:

**blowout**—a tire that has burst  
*We had a blowout on the highway.*

**break-down**—a collapse  
*Rioters crowded the streets and there was a general break-down of order.*

**break-in**—an illegal or forced entry into a room or building

*We had a break-in at the office last night; several computers were stolen.*

**break-up**—a separation caused by disagreement

*The young girl was unhappy about the break-up with her boyfriend.*

**come-on**—an incentive

*The free T-shirts at the game were a come-on to get more people to buy tickets.*

**cover up**—an attempt to hide the truth

*The cover-up of the crime made it difficult to investigate.*

**close-up**—a photograph of someone's face

*That photographer is very good at close-ups.*

**getaway**—a vacation

*That travel agency advertises exotic getaways.*

**giveaway**—something that can be obtained for free

*There were a lot of prizes and giveaways at the fair.*

**hand-me-down**—clothing used first by an older child and later by a younger one

*As the youngest child in a big family, almost all her clothes were hand-me-downs.*

**handout**—free food or supplies  
*Many homeless people survive on handouts.*

**hang-up**—a psychological problem  
*Her insecurity is one of her hang-ups.*

**hangout**—a place where friends often go for relaxation or entertainment  
*The bar on the corner is their favorite hangout.*

**kickback**—money received by a controlling agent in a business transaction

*We believe somebody got a kickback in that business deal.*

**leftovers**—food saved for another meal

*We have leftovers for a week after a big holiday meal.*

**letdown**—a return to normal life after a time of excitement

*It was a big letdown for her to go back to work after her long vacation.*

**lookout**—a place for observing the

activities of others

*The detective had a great lookout from the tenth floor of that building.*

**make up**—paint for the face

*Most women look better with a little makeup.*

**mark-down**—merchandise that has been reduced in price

*The mark-downs are in the basement of the store.*

**mix-up**—confusion caused by an error

*There were a lot of mix-ups during our tour; most of the information we received about prices, hours of*

*operation, and transportation was incorrect.*

**6.** That soccer player always gets the ball and dances around with it. He is a big \_\_\_\_\_.

**7.** If you want to audition for the school chorus, come to the auditorium for \_\_\_\_\_ on Thursday at four o'clock.

**8.** The kids always go there to relax after school. It's their favorite \_\_\_\_\_.

9. Walking fast for an hour every day is a good \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Be sure to read the review of the show in the newspaper. It was an excellent \_\_\_\_\_.

## **PHRASAL VERBS USED AS ADJECTIVES**

Verb-preposition combinations are used as adjectives in some common expressions. When used as adjectives before nouns, these combinations are hyphenated.

**check-out counter**—the place where

the cashier is located

*Please take all your purchases to the check-out counter.*

**drive-by shooting**—a crime involving the indiscriminate use of a gun from a vehicle

*The wounded people were victims of a drive-by shooting.*

**carry-out/take-out food**—food prepared and sold to be eaten somewhere else

*She lives alone, and thrives on carry-out food.*

**drive-in restaurant/movie; drive-**

**through bank/carwash**—a business where people enjoy the services without leaving their cars

*Drive-in movies were popular in the fifties, but not anymore.*

**hand-me-down clothes**—used clothes  
*In order to save money, the student wore hand-me-down clothes.*

**left-over food**—prepared food saved from a previous meal  
*Left-over food is never as good as it was when it was fresh.*

**run-down neighborhood**—a neglected area

*There are too many run-down neighborhoods in the city.*

**stand-up comic**—an entertainer who stands at a microphone and tells jokes  
*He made quite a bit of money as a stand-up comic.*

**sit-down dinner/lunch/meal**—a meal where the food is served at the table, rather than buffet style.

*They had a wonderful sit-down dinner at their wedding reception.*

**wake-up call**—a telephone call ordered by a hotel guest to help him wake up

*Our plane is leaving early in the morning, so we will need a wake-up call.*

**wind-up toy**—a mechanical toy that works by turning a key

*The children love to play with wind-up toys.*

## ADJECTIVES

**back-up**—reserve

*There is a back-up crew in case you need help.*

**bygone**—past

*In bygone days, the pace of life was slower.*

**downbeat**—unhappy

*He has been downbeat ever since his girlfriend left town.*

**for-profit**—money-making

*That group looks like a charity, but it is really a for-profit operation.*

**in-class**—activity done in the classroom, rather than as homework

*We have to write an in-class composition.*

**incoming**—being received

*The incoming mail should go in that pile.*

**off-color**—obscene

*I really hate his off-color remarks.*

**offshore**—in the ocean or sea  
*They are trying to regulate the offshore drilling of oil.*

**off-the-cuff**—spontaneous  
*Her off-the-cuff remarks prove her to be very well informed.*

**ongoing**—currently in progress  
*Everyone is sick of the long ongoing investigation.*

**on-line**—pertaining to the Internet  
*On-line services get better every day.*

**outgoing**—extroverted  
*He is one of the most outgoing*

*young people I have ever met.*

**out-of-the-way**—far away, and not on the main road

*He proposed to her at a romantic, out-of-the-way restaurant.*

**overdone**—ruined from cooking too long

*The dinner wasn't good; the meat was raw and the vegetables were overdone.*

**overextended**—too busy

*Her life is very stressful because of her overextended schedule.*

**overjoyed**—very happy

*He was overjoyed when he heard the news.*

**overpaid**—receiving more money than one is worth

*The organization has a few overpaid employees.*

**overbearing**—domineering

*Life is stressful when you have an overbearing boss.*

**underdone**—not cooked long enough

*The meat was underdone, so we put it back in the over.*

**underpaid**—paid less than one is worth

*The workers at that factory are underpaid.*

**outdo**—to surpass

*She is very ambitious; she wants to outdo everybody.*

**outlaw**—to make illegal

*They have outlawed smoking in many public places.*

**outpace**—to go faster

*The men outpaced the boys right from the beginning of the race.*

**overcome**—to conquer

*She overcame her shyness and made a lot of friends.*

**overdo**—to work too hard

*After the operation, the doctor told him not to overdo it.*

**overtake**—to reach and then surpass

*We knew him when he was just learning to dance, but he overtook us and is now a professional.*

**overturn**—to change from a negative situation to a positive one

*There has been a big overturn in the school system.*

**overwhelm**—to surprise in the extreme

*The teacher was overwhelmed by the party the students gave in her honor.*

**undercut**—to succeed by offering a lower price than one's competitors

*Discount stores usually undercut the department stores.*

**update**—the latest news

*Do you have an update on the hurricane?*

**upgrade**—to raise in quality or status

*She is earning more money because they upgraded her job.*

**withdraw**—to stop participating  
*It is a shame you have to withdraw  
from the class.*

**withhold**—keep money that will be  
owed to you at a later date  
*The government withholds part of  
your salary for income tax.*

In the following expressions,  
prepositions are used in the form of  
verbs.

**to "up" something**—to increase  
something  
*I wish I had bought that coat last  
year; they have upped the price.*

*The gym workout is getting easier;  
it's time to up the weights on the  
machines.*

**to "down" something**—to drink  
something very fast  
*After the race, he downed four  
glasses of water.*

with	anger	
with	anger	
be at an	angle	to
from an	angle	
be	angry	about
in	anguish	
in	anguish	of
of	anguish	
an	animal	of
out of	animosity	
for one's	anniversary	
on one's	anniversary	

	an annoyance	to
to the	annoyance	of
be	annoying	to
	another	of
an	answer	for
an	answer	to
an	answer	to
in	answer	to
the	answer	to
the	antidote	to
out of	anxiety	
be	anxious	about
be	anxious	for
	any	of
like	anything	
at an	apartment	
an	appeal	to

	to apply	for
	to apply	to
	in appreciation	of
	be appreciative	to
	in apprehension	
	in approbation	
	in approval	
	on approval	
	on approval	
	an aptitude	for
	in architecture	
	within an area	
	to argue	about
	to argue	against
	to argue	among
	to argue	over

to argue an	argument	with about
in an	argument	with
have an	argument	with
toward an	argument	
arm-in-	arm	with
at	arm's length	
be up in	arms	about
in the	army	
to	arrange	above
to	arrange	into
on one's	arrival	
with the	arrival	of
an	article	about
an	article	on
in an	article	
be	ashamed	of

	to ask	about
	to ask	for
	to ask someone	out
	an assault	on
	in assent	
	to assist	in
	the assistant	to
	in an association	
	on the assumption	of
	assurance	about
	be astonished	at
	to one's astonishment	
	be astounded	at
	to attach	to
	to attach something	with
	be attached	to

an	attack	on
pay	attention	to
at	attention	
be	attentive	to
in an	attic	
one's	attitude	toward
after one's	attitude	
something/nothing	attractive	about
be	attributable	to
to	audition	for
on the	authority	of
be	available	for
be	available	to
above	average	
on	average	
under	average	
an	aversion	to

	to	award	to
	an	award	to
	be	aware	of
	in	awe	of
	be	awkward	with

**Pattern 2: *be + at + work******be + at + it******You must not bother him; he is at work.******He has been at it for four hours.*****Expression:**

keep at it—not stop working

***He wanted to go home, but he kept at it until the work was finished.*****6 At can indicate a condition.**

**Pattern: *be* + *at* + Ø noun**

*Those two countries have been at peace for ten years.*

Nouns used after at:

**attention, ease, peace, rest, risk, war**

**Expression:**

sick at heart—sad

*We were sick at heart when the dog died.*

**7 At can indicate reaction.**

**Pattern 1: adjective of state + at + noun**

*We were shocked at the condition of the classrooms.*

Typical adjectives used before at:  
**aghast, amazed, astonished, astounded, indignant, shocked, speechless, surprised, thrilled, upset**

**Pattern 2: verb + at + noun**

*The crowd rejoiced at the good news.*

Verbs commonly used before at:  
**cheer, grumble, guess, hint, hoot, laugh, rebel, rejoice, snort, tremble**

**8 At indicates a degree of skill.**

**Pattern 1: adjective + at + noun**

*Your son is good at tennis, but not very good at hockey.*

**Pattern 2: adjective + at + verb in gerund form**

*That couple is really great at dancing the tango.*

Typical adjectives used before at:

**bad, excellent, good, great, lousy, skilled, terrible**

**Expression:**

be an old hand at—be very

experienced with *Our professor is an*

*old hand at government operations.*

## 9 At can indicate a **rate** or **level**

**Pattern 1: at + noun indicating price**

*At the market they are selling apples at sixty-nine cents a pound.*

*I wish we could buy mangoes at that price.*

*Her husband tries to buy everything at a discount.*

**Pattern 2: @\* + number + a + noun indicating a unit of measurement**

*They are selling apples @ 69 ¢ a lb.*

**Pattern 3: at + noun indicating level of age or distance**

*You shouldn't work so hard at your age.*

*He was still singing at (the age of) eighty.*

*We can't see very well at this distance.*

*The plane was flying at three thousand feet.*

**Expressions:**

at a distance—from far away

*I saw the new baby at a distance, and he looked beautiful.*

at arm's length—not close

*I try to stay at arm's length from*

*him to avoid an argument.*

**Pattern 4: at + noun indicating level of speed**

*She shouldn't drive at that speed.*

*At twenty-five miles an hour on the freeway, she should get a ticket.*

**Exception: When speed is expressed in numbers after a verb, at is omitted.**

*That driver is going eighty miles an hour.*

*He drove sixty miles an hour the whole way home.*

10 **At** can indicate the highest possible

**degree** in value.

**Pattern: at + superlative adjective  
used as noun**

*At best she is an adequate typist.*

*At least she comes to work every day.*

*You should be here by five o'clock at  
the latest.*

**Superlatives commonly used with  
this pattern:**

**best, least, most, worst**

**the earliest, the latest**

## **11 Expressions**

be at an advantage—be in a better-

than-average position

*He is at an advantage because his family has influence.*

be at a disadvantage—be in a less-than-average position

*When you are a newcomer at work, you are at a disadvantage.*

---

\* @ is pronounced "at." This meaning and the one for an e-mail address (section 11.1) are the only acceptable uses of this symbol.

6 **For** can indicate the **effect** of an adjective.

**Pattern 1: *be* + adjective + for + noun**

*Calcium is good for your bones and teeth.*

Adjectives often used before for:  
**accessible, available, bad, crucial, good, healthy, helpful, important, necessary, unhealthy, useful**

**Pattern 2: It + *be* + adjective + for + object + infinitive**

*It was hard for him to make good grades.*

Adjectives often used before for:  
**bad, better, challenging, customary, crucial, good, helpful, important, impossible, necessary, possible, ridiculous, unimportant, unnecessary, unusual, usual, useful, useless, wasteful, worse**

**Pattern 3: *be* + (not) adjective + enough + for + noun**

*This apartment is good enough for me.*

**Pattern 4: *be* + too + adjective + for + noun**

*That course was too hard for him.*

*This apartment is too small for three people.*

**7 For** can indicate the **recipient** of someone's feelings.

**Pattern: *be* + adjective + for + noun (person)**

*We are happy for her on her wedding day.*

*Why are you sorry for yourself?*

Typical adjectives before for:  
**delighted, happy, pleased, sorry,**

**thrilled**

8 **For** can indicate activity or preparation on an **occasion**.

**Pattern: verb + (noun) + for + noun**

*What do you want for your birthday?*

*What did you have for dinner?*

Typical nouns after for:

**one's anniversary, birthday,**

**graduation**

**breakfast, dinner, the holidays, lunch**

9 **For** indicates **a substitute**.

**Pattern 1: noun + for + noun**

*We had to use a newspaper for an umbrella.*

*I'm sorry, I mistook you for someone else.*

**Pattern 2: verb + for + noun**

*He taught the class for our teacher, who was sick.*

Verbs often used with this meaning:

**act, conduct, direct, drive, fill in, operate, manage, run, speak, stand in, substitute, teach, work**

21 **For** can indicate **favor** or **support**.

**Pattern:** verb + **for** + noun

*We are for higher wages.*

*You have to stand up for your rights.*

Verbs often used before for:

**be, cheer, push, show respect, stand, stand up**

**Expression:**

to have a preference for—to prefer

*She has a preference for the other*

*job.*

22 **For** can mean **because of**.

*We are thankful for your help.*

*She is grateful for her family.*

For as a conjunction means **because**.

*She went home early, for she was sick.*

## 23 Expressions

for once—for the first time, showing exasperation

*Would you please be at work on time for once!*

once and for all—immediately and forever after

***She decided to stop smoking once and for all.***

word for word—reading or talking slowly, one word at a time

***He read the letter to me word for word.***

for the time being—meanwhile; until something happens to change the situation

***We can't do anything now, so for the time being we will act as usual.***

for fear of—in order to avoid

*He worked and saved for fear of being poor again.*

for a change—as usual, sarcastically  
*It's raining for a change.*

be for the best—even though the situation is unpleasant, it may be good.  
*I was sad when she died, but it was for the best, because she was suffering a lot.*

go for a drive/run/swim/walk—spend a short time doing that activity  
*We always go for a walk after lunch.*

see for oneself—investigate

personally

*I couldn't believe her, so I decided to see for myself.*

for better or for worse—accepting all conditions, regardless of what happens in the future

*He promised to stay with her forever, for better or for worse.*

for naught—with no result

*Our efforts were all for naught; we lost.*

**Pattern 3: verb + object + in**

*When you finish your test, hand it in (to the teacher).*

Typical verbs:

**bring, hand, pass, take, turn**

**6 In** indicates the **number of individual parts** of something.

**Pattern: number + plural noun + in + noun**

*There are seven days in a week.*

*There are 100 cents in a dollar.*

7 **In** means during a type of **weather**.

**Pattern 1: in + the + noun**

*They walked all day in the rain.*

Nouns used with this pattern:

**cold, fog, heat, humidity, rain, snow, storm, sun**

**Pattern 2: in + Ø + noun**

*In hot weather we stay inside.*

Nouns used with this pattern:

**bad weather, cold weather, foggy**

**weather, good weather, hot  
weather, rainy weather, sunshine**

8 **In** can indicate separated **parts** of something.

**Pattern: verb + noun + in(to) +  
plural noun**

*She cut the cake in twelve pieces.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**cut, divide, separate, sever, split**

Nouns commonly used after in:

**halves, parts, pieces, portions,  
sections**

**Expression:**

in two—in halves

*We only had one candy bar, so we cut it in two and shared it.*

9 **In** can indicate **direction**.

*The girls came in this direction, and the boys went in the opposite direction.*

**Expression: (adjective, adverb)**

in-bound—moving toward the city or town

*There was a lot of in-bound traffic this morning.*

10 **In** can indicate **ratio**.

**Pattern: number + in + number**

*He is one in a million.*

*Four in ten are employed full-time.*

in sight—an indication that something is visible, or will happen soon

*We are almost there; the bridge is in sight.*

*The work is almost finished; our vacation is in sight.*

### 36 Phrasal verbs

break in (intransitive)—enter without permission, removing a barrier

*Someone broke in yesterday and took their bicycles.*

break in on (nonseparable)—enter without permission, surprising those inside

*We were having a private conversation when he broke in on us.*

break in (separable)—use something for first time, as a warm-up; to tame

*The boy got a new bicycle and couldn't wait to break it in.*

butt in (intransitive)—interrupt a private conversation

*Everything was fine until she butted in.*

check in (intransitive)—register

*After they checked in at the desk they went to their room.*

check in (separable)—leave something temporarily in a guarded place

*The bags were heavy, so he checked them in right away.*

chip in (intransitive)—contribute

*The students all chipped in and bought the teacher a present.*

close in (on) (nonseparable)—  
approach and surround

*The people were scared as the enemy closed in on them.*

count in (separable)—expect  
someone's participation

***If you are looking for volunteers,  
count me in.***

do in (separable)—tire

***I exercised at the gym for two hours,  
and it did me in.***

drop in (separable)—let something  
fall into a deep container

***After you finish the letter, please  
drop it in the mailbox.***

drop in (on) (nonseparable)—visit  
someone without notice

***We hadn't seen them in years, and***

*they dropped in on us yesterday morning.*

fill in (separable)—complete a form  
*Here is the application form; please fill it in.*

fill in (for) (nonseparable)—substitute  
*Another doctor is filling in for her while she's on vacation.*

get in (nonseparable)—enter, perhaps with slight difficulty  
*The door was locked, but we got in through the window.*

get in (separable)—place inside,

perhaps with slight difficulty

***The mailslot was too small for the package; I couldn't get it in.***

give in (to) (nonseparable)—surrender

***I hope she never gives in to his wishes; he wants to control her.***

keep in (separable)—not allow to go out

***The child was sick and his mother kept him in.***

key in (separable)—type into the computer

***First you have to key in your password.***



**Pattern 2: noun + of + plural noun**

*That store has a couple of books I want to buy.*

*A few of them are hard to find.*

Nouns used before of:

**a couple, a few, a lot, lots**

**Pattern 3: adjective + of + noncount noun**

*Much of the furniture is damaged.*

Adjectives used before of:

**all, little, much, some**

**Pattern 4: noun + of + noncount  
noun**

*A little of the information is correct.*

*A lot of it is incorrect.*

Nouns used before of:

**a little, a lot, lots**

**6 Of** can **identify** abstract nouns by their source.

**1. sound**

**Pattern: the + noun + of +  
noun**

*I heard the cry of a baby.  
There was the noise of a car.*

Nouns of sound commonly used  
before of:

**buzz, crash, cry, growl, hiss,  
howl, hum, hush, laughter,  
music, noise, silence, sound,  
whisper**

## **2. force**

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

*A gust of wind blew in my  
face.*

*We all need a breath of fresh  
air.*

Nouns of force often used before of:

**breath, gush, rush, whiff**

### **3. sight**

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

*She had a vision of musicians playing violins.*

*The blue of her eyes was the color of the ocean.*

Nouns of sight often used before of:

**blue, color, picture, sight, vision**

#### 4. sensation

**Pattern: the + noun + of +  
noun**

*The touch of his hand made  
me feel safe.*

*The smell of bread baking was  
wonderful.*

Nouns of feeling often used  
before of:

**feel, sense, smell, taste,  
texture, touch**

**Expression:**

be reminiscent of—to remind people of

*Your perfume is reminiscent of my mother.*

9 **Of** can indicate dedication of time to a **special purpose**.

**Pattern:** noun + of + noun

*That was a day of national mourning.*

*We stood for a moment of silence.*

Nouns often used before of:

**day, moment, month, period, season, semester, time, week, year**

Nouns often used after of:

**celebration, exercise, festivity, fun, happiness, meditation, mourning, prayer, quiet, reading, reflection, rest, silence, studying, thanksgiving, work**

10 **Of** can indicate **absence**.

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

*There is a need of cooperation.*

*The lack of funds is our biggest*

*problem.*

Nouns commonly used before of:  
**absence, dearth, necessity, need,  
lack, paucity, scarcity**

11 **Of** can indicate **separation**.

**Pattern 1: verb + of + noun**

*He was cured of cancer.*

*The dog died of old age.*

*She is rid of a nuisance.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + of + noun**

*They tried to relieve her of pain.*

## **Expressions:**

to get rid of—to cause to no longer have

*I got rid of my old car.*

a change of scenery/pace—a change in place or activity

*We needed a change of scenery, so we went to the Caribbean.*

12 **Of** can indicate one's **feelings** toward the object.

**Pattern 1: noun + of + noun**

*We appreciate the pleasure of your company.*

*He has a love of learning.*

Nouns often used before of:

**anguish, challenge, delight, desire,  
distrust, enjoyment, excitement,  
fear, frustration, happiness, hatred,  
joy, love, need, pleasure, stress**

## 8 Phrasal verbs

back off (intransitive)—stop trying

*The man was too aggressive and was told to back off.*

beg off (intransitive)—cancel a commitment

*Our babysitter didn't come; she begged off at the last minute.*

break off (separable)—terminate a relationship

*They couldn't agree on anything, so they broke off their engagement.*

call off (separable)—cancel an event  
*We called the picnic off because of rain.*

check off (separable)—mark on a list  
*She knows I was there; she checked off my name.*

drop off (intransitive)—fall asleep  
*She kept dropping off during the meeting.*

get off (nonseparable)—leave a vehicle you can walk around on

***We got off the ship in Jamaica.***

get off (separable)—remove, with some difficulty

***She's trying to get the mud off her shoes.***

goof off—waste time

***Stop goofing off and get to work!***

kick off (intransitive)—the beginning of an event

***The conference starts tomorrow; it will probably kick off at about ten.***

kill off (separable)—to destroy all members of a species

*There is a danger that certain birds will be killed off.*

knock off (separable)—to stop doing something

*I'm sick of your teasing. Knock it off!*

lay off (separable)—fire from a job

*They didn't need so many workers, so they laid him off.*

live off (nonseparable)—eat nothing but

*We have been living off fruit and vegetables for weeks.*

mark off (separable)—to designate areas for a game

*They are marking the field off for the soccer match.*

nod off—fall asleep

*He is jet-lagged, and keeps nodding off during the day.*

pull off (separable)—manage to achieve success

*The clients were difficult, but the managed to pull off the sale.*

put off (separable)—postpone

*They put the picnic off until Tuesday.*

put off (separable)—repel

*They didn't invite her back; her bad manners really put them off.*

round off (separable)—use the nearest whole number

*Don't use all those fractions; round off all the numbers.*

sell off (separable)—to sell everything

*He sold off all his property and left town.*

12 **On** indicates **physical support**.

**Pattern 1: verb + on + noun**

*The child leaned on his father.*

*The children sat on small chairs.*

Typical verbs used before on:

**cling, hang, lean, lie, rest, sit, sleep,  
stand**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + on + noun**

*She draped the cloth on the table.*

*He laid the sick child on the bed.*

Typical verbs:

**drape, hang, lay, place, put**

**Pattern 3: *be + on + noun***

*The beads are on a string.*

*The popsicle is on a stick.*

**Expression:**

to be on one's side—to support in spirit

*They are my friends; I'm sure they are on my side.*

13 **On** can indicate **trust in something or someone.**

**Pattern 1: verb + on + noun**

*He relies on me to pay his rent.*

Typical verbs used before on:

**bank, bet, count, depend, rely**

**Pattern 2: be + adjective + on + noun**

*She is dependent on her husband.*

Adjectives used before on:

**based, dependent, predicated**

14 **On** can indicate **frequency**.

**Pattern: on +  $\emptyset$  noun**

*He visits twice a month on average.*

Nouns commonly used after on:  
**average, occasion, weekends,  
Saturdays (or other days)  
nice (or other adjective) mornings,  
afternoons, evenings, nights**

**Expression:**

on the whole—in its entirety

*On the whole they enjoy their work.*

15 **On** can indicate a **form of record**.

**Pattern: on + ø noun**

*He wrote it on paper.*

*They recorded the song on tape.*



**Pattern 2: verb + on + noun**

*The old lady doted on her only grandchild.*

Typical verbs before on:

**center, concentrate, dote, dwell, err, harp, pick, prey, put pressure, wait**

**Expression:**

to lay hands on—to attack

*If someone lays hands on you, call the police.*

**35 On** can indicate a **consequence to another person.**

**Pattern: verb + on + noun**

*We were on a family vacation and my brother got sick on us.*

*Please don't fall asleep on me; I need you to keep me awake.*

Typical verbs:

**die, cheat, faint, fall asleep, get sick, go quiet, rat, tattle, tell**

**36 Expressions**

on time—at the expected time

*Mary is always on time for class.*

on the contrary—the opposite is true  
***We don't have too many books; on the contrary, we don't have enough.***

on the other hand—from another viewpoint  
***She is never on time; on the other hand, she is a very hard worker.***

on the tip of my tongue—refers to something almost remembered, but not quite  
***I can't remember his name, but it's right on the tip of my tongue.***

on your mark—the first command of

three at the start of a race

***On your mark, get set, go!***

to depend on—the outcome is decided  
by a future event

***I want to have the party outside, but  
it depends on the weather.***

### **37 Phrasal verbs**

call on (nonseparable)—ask

***If you need help, call on me.***

carry on (intransitive)—to behave a  
little wildly

***She carries on every night.***

carry on with (nonseparable)—  
continue an effort

***Who is going to carry on with the program when he leaves?***

catch on (intransitive)—understand

***My sister isn't interested in him; I'm afraid he will never catch on.***

get on (nonseparable)—enter a vehicle you can walk around on; mount a horse or bicycle

***We got on the bus in New York.***

get on (separable)—dress with slight difficulty

***See if you can get these shoes on.***



out of it—not conscious of reality

*He hasn't adjusted to his new lifestyle; he is really out of it these days.*

out of the past—exactly as in the past

*The music and dancing were out of the past.*

*She is so old-fashioned: her ideas are out of the (nineteen) sixties.*

be put out—be resentful

*She was really put out that you*

*didn't invite her to your party.*

### 13 Phrasal verbs

ask out (separable)—invite on a date

*He asks her out all the time, but she never goes with him.*

blow out (separable)—to extinguish  
with air

*She blew out all the candles on her birthday cake.*

break out (intransitive)—start  
suddenly

*A fire broke out in the field yesterday.*

check out (separable)—

1. investigate

***Our air-conditioning isn't working; the repairman is coming to check it out.***

2. borrow officially

***He went to the library to check out that book.***

check out (of) (intransitive)—pay the bill at a hotel

***Your friends checked out early this morning.***

***They checked out of the hotel at six o'clock.***

chew out (separable)—scold

*The boss really chewed her out for being late for the meeting.*

chicken out (on) (nonseparable)—not act because of fear

*He wanted to call the boss at home, but he chickened out.*

*He promised to do it, but he chickened out on me.*

close out of (nonseparable)—sell all of an item, and no longer carry it

*That store is closing out of small appliances, and is having a huge sale.*

count out (separable)—not expect

someone's participation

*If you're planning a meeting for Saturday, count me out.*

drop out (of) (intransitive)—leave a group or society

*She didn't enjoy the club, and finally dropped out.*

*She dropped out of the club.*

eat out (intransitive)—eat at a restaurant, rather than at home

*That family eats out at least once a week.*

figure out (separable)—solve; understand

*She can't seem to figure out her problems.*

fill out (separable)—complete in writing

*Please fill out these forms.*

find out (separable)—learn by investigating

*Can you help me find out where they live?*

get out of (nonseparable)—find an excuse to break a commitment

***She said she was sick, and got out of washing the dishes.***

go out with (nonseparable)—date someone

***She goes out with my brother every Saturday night.***

hang out (with) (intransitive)—do nothing, with friends

***Those kids just hang out every day***

*after school.*

*They hang out with other students.*

keep out (of) (intransitive)—not enter

*They told us to keep out.*

*They told us to keep out of their yard.*

knock out (separable)—cause to lose consciousness

*The champion knocked the other boxer out in the first round.*

look out (for) (intransitive)—be careful

*We told them to look out.*

*We told them to look out for cars*

*when crossing the street.*

luck out (intransitive)—be lucky  
*Tickets were hard to get, but we  
lucked out and got two in the front  
row.*

make out (intransitive)—be successful  
*We sold all of our stuff at the garage  
sale and made out pretty well.*

pass out (intransitive)—faint  
*She hadn't eaten all day, and she  
passed out.*

pass out (separable)—distribute  
*They asked us to help pass out flyers*

*announcing the new restaurant.*

pick out (separable)—select

*Here are the strawberries; pick out the best ones to serve.*

point out (separable)—call attention to

*The agent pointed out that the house was in a convenient neighborhood.*

put out (separable)—extinguish;  
display

*He put out the fire quickly.  
She put out all her best china.*

stand out (from) (intransitive)—be noticeable

*The tall girl in the chorus stands out.*

*She stands out from all the short girls.*

step out (of) (intransitive)—leave a room or building

*It was so hot in there that we decided to step out for a few minutes.*

talk out of (separable)—convince someone not to do something

*He was going to marry that girl, but his mother talked him out of it.*

try out (for) (nonseparable)—audition

*She is going to try out for the musical show at school.*

try out (separable)—use before buying, to find out if suitable

*They let you try the car out before you buy it.*

turn out (intransitive)—indicates a result

*How did the dress you were making turn out?*

10 **Over** can indicate a **topic**.

**Pattern: verb + over + noun**

*They argued over politics all night.*

*I wish you wouldn't fight over money.*

Typical verbs used before over:

**argue, battle, cry, fight, grieve,  
gush, puzzle, sigh, worry**

11 **Over** (adverb) can mean **again**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + over**

*She didn't like my work; she told me to do it over.*

Typical verbs used before over:

**do, read, start, write**

12 Expressions

over the telephone—by means of  
telephone

*She gave me that information over the telephone.*

head over heels—completely

*He is head over heels in love with her.*

13 **(All) over** (adverb) means  
**finished.**

*The party was over at nine o'clock.*

14 Phrasal verbs

blow over (intransitive)—be forgotten  
*Don't worry about your argument  
with him; I'm sure it will blow over.*

fall over (intransitive)—collapse  
*She was sitting at her desk when she  
suddenly fell over.*

hand over (separable)—give  
reluctantly

*The children had to hand over all the money they found.*

have over (separable)—invite to one's home

*We want to have you over soon.*

look over (separable)—review

*Please look over these papers before the meeting tomorrow.*

pass over (separable)—not give an expected promotion

*She expected to be promoted to director, but she was passed over this year.*

pick over (separable)—find and choose the best of a lot

*Some of these cherries are not ripe; you will have to pick them over carefully.*

pull over (intransitive)—drive to the side of the road

*We were driving too fast, and the police officer made us pull over.*

pull over (separable)—move to cover something

*Pull the sweater over your head.*

take over (intransitive)—become the boss, or act like a boss

*The children don't like to play with that boy because he always tries to take over.*

Typical verbs used before to:  
**adapt, admit, agree, appeal, consent, listen, object, pay attention, prefer, react, relate, reply, respond, revert, subscribe**

**Pattern 2: noun + to + noun**

*She has an allergy to that medicine.*

*Do you have an answer to that question?*

Typical nouns:

**allergy, answer, appeal, aversion,**

**consent, objection, preference,  
reaction, relation, reply, response**

**Pattern 3: *be* + adjective + to + noun**

*She is allergic to that medicine.*

*We are indebted to you for helping  
us.*

Typical adjectives:

**accustomed, allergic, grateful,  
indebted, thankful**

**7 To** can indicate someone's **behavior  
toward another person.**

**Pattern: *be* + adjective + to + noun**

*He was very cruel to me.*

*She has been hostile to her neighbors.*

Typical adjectives:

**affectionate, appreciative, attentive, available, charming, cold, considerate, cordial, cruel, devoted, dreadful, faithful, friendly, gracious, hospitable, hostile, inconsiderate, kind, loyal, mean, nice, obedient, open, pleasant, polite, respectful, sassy, warm**

**8 To can indicate attachment.**

**Pattern 1: verb + noun + to + noun**

*We will paste the wallpaper to the*

*bedroom walls.*

*She pinned the flowers to my lapel.*

**Pattern 2: *be* + past participle of verb + *to* + noun**

*Your paper is stapled to mine.*

*The gum is stuck to my shoe.*

Typical verbs used with these patterns:

**add, affix, adhere, apply, attach, glue, hold, paste, pin, press, nail, screw, sew, staple, stick, tape**

**9 To** indicates the **end of a period of time; until.**

**Pattern: from + to + noun**

*They work from morning to night.*

*He was here from two to five.*

10 **To** means **before**, in telling time.

**Pattern: It + *be* + number of minutes  
+ to + hour**

*It is ten (minutes) to three in the  
afternoon.*

*It was a quarter (fifteen minutes) to  
four.*

15 **To** can indicate an **exclusive relationship**.

**Pattern: the + noun + to + noun**

*This is the key to my front door.*

*Have you seen the jacket to my new suit?*

*She is the new secretary to the chairman.*

Typical nouns:

**assistant, case, cover, door, jacket, key, knob, lid, part, secretary, strap,**

## **ticket, top**

16 **To** indicates the **accompaniment of sound**.

**Pattern: verb + to + noun**

*We danced to the rhythm of the music.*

*I wake up to the noise of the city.*

Typical nouns:

**beat, blare, buzz, honk, hum, music, noise, rhythm, roar, sound, strum, tune**

17 **To** means **leading to an extreme condition**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + to + noun**

*He tore the paper to pieces.*

*She drives him to distraction.*

Common expressions:

**beat/grind to a pulp**

**bore to death**

**carry to extremes**

**chill to the bone**

**cook to perfection**

**drive to distraction/insanity**

**grind to dust**

**move to tears**

**push/carry/take to the limits**

**sing/rock to sleep**

**smash to bits**

**soak to the skin**

**starve/freeze to death**

**tear to pieces/shreds**

18 **To** indicates an **upper limitation** of an approximation.

**Pattern: number + to + number**

*It is two to two-and-a-half feet long.*

*He is thirty-eight to forty years old.*

19 **To** indicates a **relationship** between the subject and the object.

**Pattern 1: noun + *be* + adverb + to + noun**, to show location

*The library is close to the park.*

*The new theater is adjacent to the*

*mall.*

blow up (intransitive)—get angry

*The girl's father blew up when she got home so late.*

blow up (separable)—make bigger

*These photographs are too small; we should blow them up.*

bone up on (nonseparable)—do an intensive study or review of

*He wanted to bone up on European history before he went on the tour.*

boot up (separable)—start a computer  
*We shut the computer down and then booted it up again.*

break up (with) (intransitive)—end a relationship

*It's always sad when a family breaks up.*

*The girl cried when she broke up with her boyfriend.*

break up (separable)—end

*The neighbors didn't like our noisy party and told us to break it up.*

bring up (separable)—raise

*She brought the children up by*

*herself.*

bring up (separable)—mention a new topic

*At the meeting, the lady brought up the parking problem in our neighborhood.*

brush up (on) (nonseparable)—practice to relearn old skills

*He wants to brush up on his Spanish before he goes to Mexico.*

burn up (separable)—be destroyed by fire (something small)

*All of her papers and books burned up in the fire.*

burn up (separable)—make angry  
*Those silly gossips really burn me up.*

call up (separable)—contact someone by telephone  
*He comes home from school and calls all his friends up.*

catch up (with) (intransitive)—reach the place or level of another person or people  
*He has been sick and needs some time to catch up.*  
*It will be hard for him to catch up with the other students.*

catch up on (nonseparable)—get back to a normal situation

*After staying up late every night, I need to catch up on sleep.*

cheer up (intransitive)—be happier

*She needs to cheer up.*

cheer up (separable)—make someone happier

*She needs someone to cheer her up.*

clean up (intransitive)—clean thoroughly

*They promised to clean up after the party.*

clean up (separable)—clean  
thoroughly

*They promised to clean the house up  
after the party.*

close up (intransitive)—close for  
business

*The shops close up in the afternoon,  
and re-open in the evening.*

close up (separable)—stop operating a  
business

*They closed the shop up last year.*

come up to—approach

*They came up to us and asked for  
help.*



line up (separable)—make an arrangement with someone

***We lined up a great band for our dance.***

look up (separable)—search in a guide or directory

***If you want her phone number, look it up in the telephone directory.***

look up to (nonseparable)—respect

***Everybody in the department looks up to the director; she is wonderful.***

make up (with) (intransitive)—become friends again after an argument

*They had a big fight, but they made up last night.*

*They made up with each other at the party.*

make up (separable)—do missed work at a later time

*She missed the test, but the teacher said she could make it up next week.*

make up to (separable)—do a favor to pay for a damage

*She hurt his feelings, then made it up to him by inviting him to her party.*

mark up (separable)—increase the price

*Those shoes were cheaper last year; they have marked them up.*

mix up (with) (separable)—put with other things

*She put the ingredients in a bowl and mixed them all up.*

*They mixed the eggs up with the butter and sugar.*

mix up (separable)—confuse

*The sisters look so much alike; I mix them up all the time.*

pass up (separable)—miss an opportunity

*She had a chance to continue her studies, but she passed it up to get married.*

pick up (intransitive)—increase in momentum or pace

*Business is very slow this season; we hope it will pick up soon.*

pick up (separable)—lift

*When I dropped my bracelet on the sidewalk, he picked it up and handed it to me.*

run up (separable)—increase charges

through excessive use

*He made a lot of long-distance calls and ran up my phone bill.*

set up (separable)—arrange

*We set the appointment up for November.*

set up (separable)—cause an innocent person to be blamed for something

*He is not guilty of the theft; the hoodlums set him up.*

set up (separable)—establish in a career or business

*His uncle set him up in the family trade.*

show up (intransitive)—appear

*We will leave early if everyone shows up on time.*

show up (separable)—appear to be better than someone else

*They practiced the dance steps at home and showed everybody else up at the party.*

sign up—register

*We are signing up for your course.*

sign up (separable)—arrange an activity for someone

*They signed us up to work on Thursday night.*



**7 With** can indicate **a working relationship.**

**Pattern 1:** *be* + **with** + **noun**

*She is with a real estate company.*

**Pattern 2:** *be* + **past participle** + **with**  
+ **noun**

*He is involved with that organization.*

*They are not concerned with our group.*

**Pattern 3: *work* + with + noun**

His mother works with us.

8 **With** can indicate the **instrument or tool used** for an action.

**Pattern 1: verb + with + noun**

*She writes with a pen.*

Typical verbs used before with:  
**color, clean, cut, dig, draw, eat, paint, serve, sweep, wash, write**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + with + noun**

*The boy drew a flower with his crayons.*

*I swept the garage with a big broom.*

Typical verbs:

**attach, clean, clear, cut, dig, draw,  
dry, eat, erase, fasten, hit, move,  
nail, open, paint, plow, season, serve,  
sweep, wash, write**

**9 With** can indicate a noun that **covers**  
**or fills an area.**

**Pattern: verb + noun + with + noun**

*She filled the pitcher with lemonade.*

*They planted the bed with white  
flowers.*

Typical verbs:

**cover, cram, fill, frost, heap, ice,**

**pack, paint, plant, smear, spread,  
sprinkle, stuff**

**10 With** can indicate **struggle**

**Pattern 1: verb + with + noun**

*My colleague disagrees with the  
management.*

*He is always fighting with his  
brother.*

Typical verbs:

**argue, clash, compete, conflict,  
differ, disagree, fight, quarrel,  
wrestle**

**Expression:**

to have it out with—to express anger verbally

After two years of frustration, he finally had it out with his boss.

**Pattern 2: *have* + a + noun + with**

*She has an argument with him every morning.*

*They are having a quarrel with the neighbors right now.*

Typical nouns:

**argument, bout, contest,  
disagreement, fight, match, quarrel**

Typical verbs used before with:  
**be, cruise, drift, drive, float, go, ride, sail**

Typical nouns used after with the:  
**current, flow, tide, traffic, wind**

15 **With** can indicate **separation**.

**Pattern: verb expression + with + noun**

*I hate to part with my old books.*

*Our company severed relations with*

*that client years ago.*

*He is through with her; he doesn't want to see her again.*

Typical verb expressions used before with:

**be finished, be through, break up, cut ties, fall out, part, part company, sever relations, split up**

16 **With** is used in a **comparison** or **contrast**.

**Pattern 1: noun + verb + with + noun**  
*Your blouse clashes with your skirt.*

Verbs commonly used with this

pattern:

**clash, compare, contrast, go, look good**

**Pattern 2: compare/contrast + noun  
+ with + noun**

*Let's compare this computer with that one.*

17 **With** can indicate **equality**.

**Pattern: be + adjective + with + noun**

*This side is not even with that side.  
Our team is tied with theirs: the score is two to two.*

Typical adjectives used before with:  
**comparable, even, level, on a par,  
parallel, tied**

18 **With** can indicate the **cause of a condition.**

**Pattern 1: adjective + with + noun**  
*The branches of the trees were heavy  
with snow.*

*The girl's face is wet with tears.*

**Pattern 2: verb in gerund form +  
with + noun**  
*The newlyweds were beaming with  
happiness.*

Typical verbs used before with:  
**aching, beaming, crying, dancing,  
fuming, screaming, shouting, smiling,  
trembling**

Typical nouns used after with:  
**anger, fear, glee, happiness, joy,  
mirth, rage, shame, zeal**

**Pattern 3: with + the + noun**

*With the traffic in this city, it takes a long time to get to work.*

*Their lifestyle changed completely with the birth of their first baby.*



**OVER, ABOVE****BELOW, BENEATH, UNDER, UNDERNEATH**

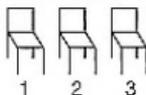
The white box is **over** the black box.  
The white box is **above** the black box

The black box is **below** the white box.  
The black box is **beneath** the white box.  
The black box is **under** the white box.  
The black box is **underneath** the white box.

**AGAINST****BY, BESIDE, NEXT TO**

Chair A is **against** Chair B.

Chair B is **by** Chair C.  
Chair B is **beside** Chair C.  
Chair B is **next to** Chair C.

**BETWEEN****AMONG**

Chair 2 is **between** Chair 1 and Chair 3.

The black spot is **among** the white spots.

**ON, ON TOP OF, UPON****OFF**

The white lamp is **on** the table.  
The white lamp is **on top of** the table  
The white lamp is **upon** the table.

The black lamp is **off** the table.

**IN, INSIDE, WITHIN****OUT OF, OUTSIDE OF**

Apple A is **in** the box.  
Apple A is **inside** the box.  
Apple A is **within** the box.

Apple B is **out of** the box.  
Apple B is **outside of** the box.



on the	back	of
to	back	down (
to	back	off
to	back	up
around	back	
be back to	back	
one's	background is	against
something/nothing	bad	about
be	bad	at
be	bad	for
	bad	of some
in	bad weather	

in	badminton	
a	bag	of
in a	bag	
by the	bag	
to	bake	for
against one's	balance	
in a	balcony	
on the	balcony	
a	ban	on
to	bang	against
to	bank	on
in	banking	
in	bankruptcy	
go into	bankruptcy	
by the	barrel	
through a	barricade	
a	barrier	to

through a	barrier	
in	baseball	
be	based	on
in a	basement	
be	bashful	about
be	basking	in
to	bat something	over
in a	bathing suit	
to	battle	over
to	be	about
to	be	across
to	be	after
to	be	ahead of
to	be	back from
to	be	beside
to	be	for

	to be	from
	to be	in back
	to be	like
	to be	off
	to be	on
	to be	out of
	to be	out of
	to be	over
	to be	over
	to be	through
	to be	under
	to be	up
	to be	up to
	to be	with

	to be	with
	to be	with
	off the beach	
	on the beach	
	on the beach	
	be beaming	with
	to beat	against
	to the beat	of
	to beat	to a pul
	with all one's beauty	
	because	of
	in bed	
	to bed	
	to beg	for
	to beg	off
	to begin	with

from the beginning	from the beginning	of to end
at the beginning	beginning	
from the beginning	beginning	
on behalf	behalf	of
to behave	behave	like
one's behavior	behavior	toward
after one's behavior	behavior	
on one's best behavior	behavior	
beyond belief	belief	
be belligerent	belligerent	with
to belong	belong	to
below the belt	belt	
on the bench	bench	
to bend	bend	over
go around the bend	bend	
be beneficial	beneficial	to

to one's	benefit	
at	best	
be for the	best	
to	bet	on
be	better	for some

10 **For** can mean **available**.

**Pattern:** noun + for + noun

*The house is for sale.*

*The pianos are for use by the students.*

Nouns often used after for:

**hire, practice, purchase, rent, sale, use**

**Expression:**

up for grabs—available to many

people

*The chairmanship is up for grabs.*

11 **For** can indicate a **destination**.

**Pattern: verb + for + noun**

*We are leaving for Spain in two weeks.*

Verbs used before for:

**head, leave, plan, set out, start out, take off**

12 **For** can indicate **representation**.

Red is for stop; yellow is for caution; green is for go.

M is for Mary.

13 **For** can indicate **equality in an exchange**.

**Pattern 1: *be + noun + for + noun***  
*The bananas are two pounds for a dollar.*

**Pattern 2: *verb + noun + for + noun***  
*We bought three books for twenty-five dollars.*

Typical verbs:

**buy, do, exchange, hand over, make, rent, sell, take, trade, want**

**Pattern 3: verb + for + noun**

*He works for twenty dollars an hour.*

**Expression:**

for free—without charge

for nothing—without charge

14 **For** can indicate **amount**.

**Pattern: noun + for + noun**

*The mechanic sent them a bill for three hundred dollars.*

Nouns often used before for:

**bill, check, invoice, receipt, request**



15 **For** can indicate **length of time**.  
*He was here for ten years.*

Expressions:

for good—forever

*He came to live in this country for good.*

for life—until death

*They sent him to prison for life.*

16 **For** can indicate **need on a future date**.

*She needs the musicians for Thursday afternoon.*

17 **For** can mean **despite**.

**Pattern: for + all + possessive pronoun + noun**

*For all her experience, she's not a very good secretary.*

Nouns often used with this meaning:  
**education, experience, expertise, knowledge, popularity, qualifications, training**

18 **For** indicates the **person or people responsible for an action.**

**Pattern: for + person + infinitive**  
*Your final grade is for the teacher to decide.*

*That problem is for you to solve.*

19 **For** can describe a **sense or talent.**

**Pattern: have + noun + for + noun**  
*He has an ear for music.*

*She has a touch for the piano.*

Nouns often used before for:  
**aptitude, ear, eye, knack, rhythm, talent, touch, voice**

## **Expressions with this meaning:**

have a nose for gossip—often hear and spread news about others

have an eye for the girls—often admire pretty women

20 **For** can indicate an **unusual fact**.

**Pattern 1: adjective + for + noun**

*That boy is tall for his age.*

*It's warm for February.*

**Pattern 2: adverb + for + noun**

*She plays very well for a beginner.*



11 **In** indicates the **style** or **composition** of recorded material.

**Pattern: in + noun**

*The letter was written in ink.*

*They printed the photographs in duplicate.*

Nouns commonly used after in:

**bold, black and white, capital letters, color, duplicate, ink, italics, lower case, oil, pencil, print, water colors**

12 **In** indicates the use of a **language** or **style** of expression.

**Pattern: in + Ø noun**

*The paper was written in English.*

*The girls chorus sang in harmony.*

Nouns often used after in:

**a few words, chorus, code, concert, detail, full, harmony, music, poetry, rhythm, sync, tune, verse**

**Adverbial pattern: in + adjective**

*In brief, we are leaving in five minutes.*

*In short, everybody is getting a raise in pay.*

**Expression:**

tongue-in-cheek—sarcastically

*All the nice things he said about her were said tongue-in-cheek.*

13 **In** indicates **current style**.

**Pattern:** in + Ø noun

*Her clothes are always in fashion.*

*She likes to be in style.*

Nouns used with this pattern:

**style, fashion, season, vogue**

**Expression:**

to be "in"—to be in fashion

*High-heeled shoes are in again this season.*

14 **In** indicates a **condition**.

**Pattern 1:** *be* + **in** + **a** + **noun**

*She is always in a good mood.*

Nouns commonly used with this pattern:

**hurry, mess, good/bad mood, rage, stew**

**Pattern 2:** **verb** + **in** +  $\emptyset$  **noun**

*We are in good health.*

*She ran into the room in tears.*



in that case—if that happens

*In that case, everybody will stay at home.*

**Pattern 3: in + the + noun**

*In the end, everything was fine.*

Nouns used with this pattern:

**end, final analysis**

**Pattern 4: in + noun + of + noun**

*She went to the party in spite of her mother's wishes.*

*In case of fire, leave the building.*

Nouns used with this pattern:

**case, light, spite, terms, view**

33 **In** can indicate the **quality** of a noun.

**Pattern 1: *be* + adjective + in + noun**

*They are lacking in the necessities of a decent life.*

*Those people may be poor in commodities, but they are rich in spirit.*

*Her sister is blind in one eye.*

**Pattern 2: *be* + the + superlative**

**adjective + noun + in + name of category**

*He is the best student in the class.*

*That is the longest river in the world.*

34 **In** can indicate a **topic**.

**Pattern 1: noun + in + noun**

*There was a big improvement in her grades this term.*

Typical nouns before in:

**advance, change, decline, decrease, improvement, increase**

**Pattern 2: verb + in + noun**

*She participated in the planning of the conference.*

*He persists in calling me on the telephone.*

Typical verbs:

**assist, cooperate, help, invest, participate, persist**

**Pattern 3: adjective + in + noun**

*This land is rich in minerals.*

*She is very interested in antique furniture.*

Typical adjectives:

**basking, covered, drowning, interested, rich, steeped, submerged**

## 35 Expressions

in addition to—plus

*In addition to your car payment, you will have to pay for registration and insurance.*

in the air—an indication that something has been discussed

*A raise in salaries is in the air.*

## 5. expression

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

*He shouted words of anger.*

*She breathed a sigh of relief.*

Nouns of expression often used  
before of:

**cry, groan, moan, sigh, shout,  
smile, tears, word**

Nouns of feeling often used after  
of:

**anger, anguish, delight, elation,  
excitement, fear, frustration,  
happiness, joy, relief, sadness,  
surprise**

**7 Of** can indicate **material** or **composition**.

**Pattern: noun + *be* + past participle  
+ of + noun**

*My new bag is made of leather.*

*Water is made up of hydrogen and oxygen.*

Past participles used before of:  
**composed, formed, made, made up**  
**(used with natural phenomena)**

Nouns often used after of:

**aluminum, brass, cardboard, clay, copper, cotton, crystal, fabric, glass, gold, iron, jute, leather, metal, nylon, paper, plastic, platinum, polyester, rayon, sand, silk, silver, string, tin, water, wire, wood, wool**

**8 Of** can identify **contents** or **topic**.

**Pattern 1: noun + of + noun**

*She ate a salad of lettuce, tomatoes, and avocados.*

*My uncle wrote a book of short stories.*

*The book has pictures of flowers.*

*A group of students went to the*

*museum.*

Common expressions:

**words of love, a sign of weakness, a method of teaching**

**Pattern 2: verb + of + noun**

*I dreamed of you.*

*They often talked of their youth.*

Verbs commonly used before of:

**complain, dream, hear, learn, sing, speak, talk, think**

**Pattern 3: verb + noun + of + noun**

*She informed me of my appointment.*

Verbs used with this pattern:  
**advise, inform, remind, tell**

**Pattern 4: adjective + of + noun**

*She is capable of better work.*

*They are independent of their  
parents.*

Adjectives commonly used with this  
pattern:

**capable, ignorant, proud, repentant,  
sick, tired**

Typical nouns:

**disk, cassette, compact disc, film, microfilm, paper, record, tape**

16 **On** means **by means of**.

**Pattern 1: verb + on + noun**

*That car runs on diesel fuel.*

*They survive on very little food.*

Typical verbs used before on:

**live, keep alive, gain/lose weight, make do, run, scrape by, survive,**

## **train, thrive**

Typical nouns used after on:

**calories, electricity, food, fuel, gas,  
income, salary**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + on + noun**

*I bought the furniture on credit.*

*He wrote his paper on the computer.*

17 **On** can mean **using** at the present time.

**Pattern: be + on + the + noun**

*The manager can't help you now;*

*she is on the telephone.*

Nouns commonly used with this pattern:

**computer, Internet, machine, telephone**

**Expression:**

to log on—to connect to the Internet

*Don't interrupt him now; he has just logged on.*

18 **On** can indicate the **cause of a mishap.**

**Pattern 1: verb + noun + on + noun**

*I cut my finger on a piece of glass.*

*She hurt herself on the swing.*

**Pattern 2: verb + on + noun**

*He tripped on a fallen branch.*

Verbs commonly used before on:

**choke, fall, stumble, trip**

19 **On** can indicate a **motive for action**.

**Pattern 1: verb + on +  $\emptyset$  noun**

*They went to Houston on business.*

Nouns used after on:

**business, command, instinct,  
reconnaissance, request, sabbatical,  
spec, vacation**

## **Expressions:**

on purpose—deliberately

*She didn't want to see him; she stayed home on purpose.*

on behalf of—in place of, for the sake of

*I went to the meeting on behalf of my mother, who was out of town.*

30 **On** can indicate the **person who pays**.

*The party is on me.*

**Expression:**

on the house—paid for by the management of the restaurant

*The drinks are on the house.*

31 **On** can mean **at the same time as**.

**Pattern 1: on + verb in gerund form**

*She fainted on hearing the news.*

**Pattern 2: on + ø noun**

*She feeds the baby on demand.*

*The car is yours on receipt of the title.*

Typical nouns after on:

**approval, demand, receipt,  
reflection, second thought, sight**

**32 On can indicate acquisition.**

**Pattern 1: verb + on + noun**

*They took on five new technicians at the plant.*

*She wanted to add on a family room.*

Typical verbs used before on:

**add, bring, build, heap, load, pile,  
put, take**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + on + noun**

*They forced a new assistant on us.*

Typical verbs used before on:

**add, build, force, heap, load, pile,  
put, push**

**Expression:**

to put on—to get dressed in

*She put on her shoes and went out.*

**33 On can indicate attitude toward  
the object.**

*Please have pity on the people who live there.*

*They agree on the important issues.*

**Expression:**

have a crush on—to have a frivolous romantic interest in

*The young boy had a crush on his teacher.*

34 **On** can indicate **behavior** concerning the object.

**Pattern 1:** *be* + adjective + on + noun

*The teacher is much too easy on the boys.*

*I think I was too rough on her  
yesterday.*

Typical adjective before on:  
**easy, hard, rough, soft, strict, tough**

11 **To** can indicate **continuous repetition of an action.**

**Pattern 1: verb + from + noun + to + same noun**

*We went from door to door with our information sheets.*

*The bus rocked from side to side.*

Common expressions:

**door to door, house to house, place to place, side to side**

**Pattern 2: noun + hyphen + same  
noun + noun**

*They have door-to-door service.*

12 **To** can indicate a **comparison of value**.

**Pattern 1: be + adjective + to + noun**

*His work is comparable to hers.*

*Your car is similar to mine.*

Typical adjectives:

**comparable, inferior, preferable,  
similar, superior**

**Pattern 2: compare + noun + to +  
noun**

*Please don't compare my work to yours.*

**Pattern 3:** *compared + to + noun*  
*She is of medium height, but compared to her sister, she is tall.*

**13 To** can indicate a **problem** or **solution**.

**Pattern:** *noun + to + noun*  
*The strike is a threat to our survival.*  
*She knows the secret to success.*

Typical nouns used before to:

Problems: **barrier, obstacle, threat**

Solutions: **answer, antidote, boost,**

**clue, directions, guide, instructions,  
key, secret, solution**

**14 To can indicate ownership,  
membership, and connection.**

**Pattern 1: *belong/pertain* + to +  
noun**

*The book belongs to me.*

*Her friends belong to that club.*

*This discussion does not pertain to  
you.*

**Pattern 2: adjective + to + noun**

*Your comments are not pertinent to  
this topic.*

Adjectives used with this meaning:  
**attached, attributable, committed,**  
**connected, dedicated, engaged,**  
**exclusive, important, married,**  
**obligated, pertinent, promised,**  
**relevant, related, seconded, tied**

cover up (separable)—hide the facts  
*They committed a crime and then covered it up.*

dress up—put on more formal clothes than usual  
*She always dresses up for parties.*

face up to (nonseparable)—confront  
*She had to stop dreaming and face up to the truth.*

feel up to (nonseparable)—feel good

enough for an activity

*He is a lot better, but he still doesn't feel up to going to work.*

fill up (separable)—put in all that the container will hold

*If you use my car, please fill it up with gas.*

get up (intransitive)—rise

*She gets up at six o'clock every morning.*

get up (separable)—lift or remove something with some difficulty

*Will you help me get these boxes up the steps?*

give up (intransitive)—surrender

*We won the game because the other team gave up and went home.*

give up (on) (intransitive)—stop trying

*She tried to convince her daughter to go back to school, but she finally gave up.*

*She finally gave up on her daughter.*

give up (separable)—stop using something

*He tried to stop smoking cigarettes, but found it hard to give them up.*

grow up (intransitive)—become an adult

*Her son wants to be a doctor when he grows up.*

hang up (intransitive)—put the phone down to end a telephone call

*You have dialed the wrong number; hang up and try again.*

hang up (separable)—put clothing on a hook or hanger

*After you wash this dress, you should hang it up.*

hang up on (nonseparable)—rudely end a telephone call during a conversation

*When she refused his invitation, he*

*got angry and hung up on her.*

hold up (intransitive)—continue in good condition

*The bike is in good shape now, but I don't know how long it will hold up.*

hold up (separable)—delay

*The traffic on the bridge held us up for two hours.*

hurry up (intransitive)—go faster

*Please hurry up! We're late.*

keep up (intransitive)—stay at the level of the others

*The other hikers walked faster, and*

*we couldn't keep up.*

keep up (separable)—continue

*You are doing a great job. Keep it up!*

keep up with (nonseparable)—go as fast as

*Please don't walk so fast; I can't keep up with you.*

line up (intransitive)—form a line for service in order

*We always line up to buy tickets.*

**Pattern 3: *be + in + noun + with***

*She is in competition with him for the promotion.*

*It's too bad your ideas are in conflict with those of the majority.*

**11 With** can indicate **support or cooperation.**

**Pattern 1: *verb + with + noun***

*They are cooperating with the authorities.*

*You have to comply with the rules.*

Typical verbs:

**agree, collaborate, comply, concur, cooperate, empathize, harmonize, help, negotiate, sympathize, work**

**Expressions:**

to get along with—to cooperate with

*I get along with my roommate, even though she is not my best friend.*

to be with—to support

*Don't be nervous when you are giving your speech; we are all with you.*

**Pattern 2: verb + a + noun + with + noun**

*She signed a contract with us.*

Typical nouns:

**agreement, business, contract,  
friendship, partnership, relationship**

**Expression:**

to do business with—to have  
negotiations with

*We don't do business with them  
anymore.*

**Pattern 3: *be* + *in* + noun + *with* +  
noun**

*Are you in agreement with the  
decisions they made?*

Typical nouns before with:

**accord, agreement, cahoots, concert,  
collaboration, compliance,  
concurrence, cooperation, harmony,  
partnership, sympathy**

**12 With means at the same time as.**  
*He rises with the sun.*  
*They opened the show with a song.*

Typical verbs:

**begin, celebrate, close, dedicate,  
end, start**

**13 With means at the same rate as.**  
*Wine improves with age.*  
*Wisdom comes with experience.*  
*With time, you will forget.*

14 **With** means **in the same direction**  
**as.**

**Pattern: verb + with + the + noun**

*It will take longer because we will  
be with the traffic.*

*They drifted down the river with the  
current.*

	be better	from
	be better	off
	for better or	for wor
	in between	
the great	beyond	
on a	bicycle	
a	bill	for
against a	bill	
against one's	bill	
in	bills	
with the	bills	
to	bind	to

through a	binoculars bird	of
with the	birth	of
on one's	birth	
for one's	birthday	
on one's	birthday	
quite a	bit	about
into	bits	
in	black	
in the	black	
in	black and white	
to the	blare	of
be	blessed	with
	blind	in
on the	blink	
around the	block	
to	blow	down

	to blow something	down
	to blow	into
	to blow something	into
	to blow	off
	to blow something	off
	to blow something	out
	to blow	over
	to blow	toward
	to blow	up
	to blow something	up
	above board	
	across the board	
	go by the board	
	on the board	
	on board	
	on the boardwalk	

	in a boat (small) in bold	
	to bone	up on
	a book	about
	a book	on
	in a book	
	to book someone	for
	a boost	to
	to boot	up
	on the border	of
	to bore	to death
	be bored	from
	be bored	with
	be boring	to
	to borrow	from
	to borrow something	from
	under a boss	

	both	of
to	bother	about
a	bother	to
on the	bottom	of
to	bounce	on
out of	bounds	
within	bounds	
have a	bout	with
a	bowl	of
a	box	of
in a	box	
by the	box	
through the	boxes	
in	braces	
to	brag	about
in	braids	

	a brand of brass	of
	to break	down
	to break something	down
	to break	in (on)
	to break something	in
	to break	into
	to break	into
	to break	into
	to break	off
	to break something	off
	to break	out
	to break	up
	to break	up (with)
	to break something	up
	at breakfast	
	for breakfast	

over	breakfast	
(all) through	breakfast	
to	breakfast	
above	breaking the law	
beneath	breaking the law	

Nouns often used with this pattern:  
**anguish, awe, chaos, comfort,  
condition, confusion, danger,  
despair, dire straits, disarray,  
disaster, disgrace, disorder, doubt,  
dread, fear, good/bad health, love,  
need, pain, ruins, shape, sickness,  
tears, trouble**

Expressions:

to be in hot water—to be in trouble  
*She has been late three times, and*

*now she's really in hot water with the boss.*

to be in the black—to be out of debt  
*We have paid off all our credit cards; we are finally in the black.*

15 **In** describes a manner of **behavior**.

**Pattern 1: verb + in + a + noun**  
*He spoke in a loud voice.*

Nouns often used with this pattern:  
**manner, voice, way**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + in + Ø**

**noun**

*He told me that story in confidence.*

Nouns often used after in:

**cold blood, confidence, fairness,  
friendship, fun, person, silence,  
someone's absence, someone's  
presence, trust**

**Adverbial pattern: verb + noun + in  
+ adjective**

*She is working on her exams in  
earnest.*

Typical adjectives after in:

**earnest, private, public**

Expressions:

in deference to—with great respect for  
*We are acting in deference to our  
chairman's wishes.*

hand-in-hand (adverb)—with hands  
linked

*Couples love to walk hand-in-hand.*

arm-in-arm (adverb)—with arms  
linked

*She always walked arm-in-arm with  
her mother.*

16 **In** means **wearing**.

**Pattern 1: in + noun**

*She came in a long dress, and he was in a suit and tie.*

Typical nouns:

**bathing suit, coat, dress, hat, skirt, suit, tie, tee shirt**

**Pattern 2: in + Ø noun**

*Everybody went to the party in costume.*

Typical nouns:

**black (or any color), braces, braids, costume, curls, disguise, drag, high heels, jeans, jewels, make-up, mourning (black), ponytails, (tennis)**

**shoes, shorts, uniform**

28 **In** can mean **when**.

**Pattern: in + verb in gerund form**

*She is correct in saying that he was lazy.*

*In signing your name, you are admitting guilt.*

29 **In** can refer to the **process of a game**.

**Pattern: in + name of game**

*In baseball, there are nine players*

*on a team.*

*The boys have been in a game of chess all afternoon.*

Names of common games:

**badminton, baseball, bridge, canasta, cards, chess, football, golf, hide-and-seeK, hockey, monopoly, polo, racquetball, solitaire, tag, tennis, volleyball**

**30 In can mean on the occasion of.**

**Pattern: in + Ø noun**

*She smiled in acceptance.*

*He nodded his head in agreement.*

Nouns often used with this meaning:  
**acceptance, action, comparison,  
conclusion, contrast, conversation,  
defeat, practice, return, the end**

31 **In** can indicate a **warning** or  
**prediction** of a reaction.

**Pattern: *be + in + for + a + noun***  
*He is in for a shock when he gets  
here tomorrow.*

Nouns used with this meaning:  
**rude awakening, shock, surprise,  
treat**

32 **In** can define the **emphasis** or

**perspective** of a statement.

**Pattern 1: in + Ø noun**

*In fact, this is a very good report.*

*The children behave themselves in general.*

Nouns commonly used after in:

**addition, all, all seriousness, analysis, answer, conclusion, fact, general, particular, question, return, reverse, theory, truth**

**Pattern 2: in + one's + noun**

*In my opinion, this is a mistake.*

Typical nouns:

**case, heart, opinion, view**

**Expressions:**

in any case—no matter what happens

*We will have the party in any case.*

on account of—because of

*The picnic was cancelled on account of the rain.*

**Pattern 2: on + the + noun + of**

*They went overseas on the orders of the commander.*

*I bought the car on the recommendation of my son.*

Typical nouns:

**advice, assumption, authority, calculations, charge, premise,**

**recommendation, orders**

20 **On** can indicate a **type of trip**.

**Pattern: verb + on + noun**

*The class went on an excursion around the city.*

Nouns used after on:

**cruise, excursion, field trip, flight, honeymoon, journey, mission, outing, safari, trip**

21 **On** can indicate a **topic**.

**Pattern 1: noun + on + noun**

*We have a good book on gardening.  
He wrote a long article on the  
economy.*

Typical nouns before on:  
**article, book, debate, discussion,  
paper, report, research, speech,  
thesis, thoughts**

**Pattern 2: verb + on + noun**  
*She spoke on the environment.  
I wish he would expound on his  
ideas.*

Typical verbs before on:  
**expound, report, speak, write**

22 **On** can show an **effect** of something on something else.

**Pattern: noun + on + noun**

*We got a good buy on our car.*

*There is a new tax on perfume.*

Typical nouns used before on:

**ban, discount, embargo, encumbrance, evidence, good buy, restriction, sale, tax, war**

23 **On** can indicate **possession** at the time.

*She had four dollars on her.*

*He didn't have a gun on him.*

24 **On** can indicate membership in an exclusive group.

**Pattern:** *be* + **on** + **the** + **noun**

*She is on the basketball team and the honor roll.*

Typical nouns:

**approval, board, call, course, display, duty, edge, fire, guard, high/low speed, high/low volume, hold, leave, loan, one's best behavior, order, parole, record, sale, schedule, stand-by, strike, tap, target, track, trial, vacation**

**Expressions:**

on hand—available

*He is always on hand to help us.*

on-line—connected to the Internet

*Every day more and more people are on-line.*

on one's own—independent

*He is twenty-one and he lives on his own.*

**Pattern 2: *be* + *on* + *a/the* + *noun***

*She is on a diet.*

Typical nouns with a:

**budget, diet, roll, spree**

**Expression:**

on a roll—to be experiencing repeated success

*He has received four job offers; he is on a roll.*

Typical nouns with the:

**brink, edge, line, mark, way**

**Expressions:**

on the spot—to be forced to make a difficult decision

*The young man was on the spot when his two best friends had an argument.*

on the fence—to be undecided

*The congressman hasn't decided which way to vote: he is on the fence.*

on the air—to be broadcasting on the radio or television

*The news is on the air at six o'clock.*

on the bench—to be the judge in court

*Do you know who is on the bench at her trial?*

on the blink—to be broken

*We can't copy it; the copier is on the blink.*

on the road—to be traveling

*Our band is going to be on the road for two weeks.*

on the condition that—if

*You can go on the trip on the condition that you pay for it.*

29 **On** can indicate **means of communication.**

*I heard it on the radio.*

*There are a lot of movies on television.*

*She found it on the Internet.*

	a breath	of
	out of breath	
	a bridge	to
	in the game of bridge	
	in brief	
	to bring	about
	to bring	back
	to bring	back to
	to bring	down
	to bring	down
	to bring something	down
	to bring	from

	to bring something	in
	to bring	on
	to bring something	through
	to bring	to
	to bring something	up
	to bring something	up
on the	brink	
to	broadcast something	all over
at a	brunch	
to	brush something	off
to	brush	up (on)
by the	bucket	
on a	budget	
be over one's	budget	
to	build	for
to	build	on
to	build something	on (to)

	to build something	out of
	in a building	
	through a building	
	through the building	
	within a building	
	by the bunch	
	in bunches	
	in bundles	
	to burn	down
	to burn	up
	to burn something	up
	to burst	in
	to burst	into flames
	to bury something	under
	a bus	to
	on a bus	

	at a bus stop	
	by the bushel	
	do business	with
	in business	with
	on business	
	in busloads	
	to butt	against
	to butt	in
	to butt	in
	to buy	for
	to buy something	for
	to buy	from
	to buy something	from
	a good buy	on
	the buzz	of
	to the buzz	of
	by and by	

	in cahoots	with
	in cahoots	with
	on the calculations	of
	to call	back
	to call	for
	to call	from
	to call	on
	to call something	off
	to call someone	up
	on call	
	above the call of duty	
	to calm someone	down
	on calories	
	to campaign	against
	to campaign	for
	a can	of

in the game of	canasta	
in a	canoe	
be	capable	of
in	capital letters	
the	captain	of
in	captivity	
in a	car	
a	card	to
of	cardboard	
in a game of	cards	
to	care	about
to	care	for
under the	care	of
with	care	
to	care for someone	(all) thr
be	careless	of
through	carelessness	

	in carloads	
	to carry	above
	to carry	back to
	to carry	down