

Prepositions

Try and think what fills the gaps here:

1. I'm meeting my mum the cinema.
2. I have lived Manchester for 12 years. Mr Smith's children live in nearby.
3. My birthday is a Tuesday this year, I think.
4. Can you attend Mr Smith, please?

Of course, it's prepositions! They are the small words that we use in English to do a lot of things. They are everywhere!

Here's some information about them:

- Prepositions can change the meaning of a sentence: they tell us how, when, where things happen
- We generally follow prepositions with nouns, with the exception of 'to' when the infinitive is being used
- Prepositions are often collocated with specific nouns, verbs and adjectives
- With different forms of the same root word we find patterns of prepositions: **addicted to / addiction to**
- We also can see some patterns with similar word meanings: **scared of /terrified of/afraid of**
- Words can have multiple collocations with different prepositions - this affects the meaning: **Shout at (angry) / Shout to (get someone's attention)**
- Words can have multiple meanings for the same collocation: **put out (put something outside your house / stop a fire from burning/ annoy somebody)**

*collocate means 'put together with'

In this class we'll look at putting verbs and prepositions together. Below is an exercise that deals with common verb + preposition collocations.

Verbs & Prepositions

Match the verbs with the preposition below. It is possible that one verb could go with different prepositions.

<p>think worry speak laugh compare work stare agree smile</p> <p>look interfere focus ask provide rely insist point pay vote</p> <p>wait begin know protest concentrate prepare adapt</p> <p>depend consent react reply apologise</p>					
to	at	on	for	about	with

Exercise 2

Use collocations from exercise 1 to complete the sentences below:

1. I really my friends for help with my kids.
2. Don'tme! It's not funny!
3. I have beenthis exam for months.
4. It takes a while to a new country.
5. Unfortunately, Mr Johnson his dressing and now it has fallen off.
6. Did youthe school taking Billy out for a trip?
7. People are in the street. They arethe rights of healthcare workers.
8. I can't believe my son broke your window. I have brought him here to doing it.
9. Mr Smith a wheelie walker.
10. that bridge over there. It is in a terrible condition.
11. My boss is unapproachable. You can'thim.
12. I'm not sure what time the bus leaves but I'm supposed to 9pm.
13. I alwaysbuying dinner when I'm at a restaurant.
14. My eyesight is blurry. I can't anything.
15. I a lot of this government's policies.
16. If you need anything, justhelp.
17. There's no way I am going tothat politician again. He's a liar!
18. I the economy in this country. It is so unpredictable.
19. Did youyour new washing machine with your credit card?
20. It is rude to people.

Answers

to	at	on	for	about	with
speak	laugh	work	speak	think	provide
adapt	work	agree	work	worry	interfere
	stare	focus	look	agree	begin
consent	point	rely	ask	laugh	agree
	smile	insist	pay	ask	
react	look	vote	vote	know	
		concentrate	wait	protest	
reply		depend	protest	apologise	
apologise			prepare		
			apologise		

- I really **rely on / depend on** my friends for help with my kids.
- Don't **laugh at / smile at** me! It's not funny!
- I have been **prepared / preparing for** this exam for months.
- It takes a while to **adapt to** a new country.
- Unfortunately, Mr Johnson has **interfered with** his dressing and now it has fallen off.
- Did you **consent to** the school taking Billy out for a trip?
- People are in the street. They **are protesting about** the rights of healthcare workers.
- I can't believe my son broke your window. I have brought him here to **apologise for** doing it.
- Mr Smith a wheelie walker.
- Look at** that bridge. It is in a terrible condition.
- My boss is unapproachable. You can't **speak to** him.
- I'm not sure what time the bus leaves but I'm supposed to **arrive at** 9pm.
- I always **insist on** buying dinner when I'm at a restaurant.
- My eyesight is blurry. I can't **focus on** anything.
- Did you see the way she **reacted to** the policeman? Shocking!
- If you need anything, just **ask for** help.
- There's no way I am going to **vote for** that politician again. He's a liar!
- I **worry about** the economy in this country. It is so unpredictable.
- Did you **pay for** your new washing machine with your credit card?
- It is rude to **stare at / laugh at / point at** people.