

24<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Language – Prepositions

What could go into these spaces?

1. I'm meeting my mum **at** the cinema.
2. I have lived **in** Manchester for 12 years.
3. My birthday is **on** a Tuesday this year, I think.
4. Can you attend **to** 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.

think   worry   speak   laugh   work   stare   agree   smile look   focus   ask   rely   insist   point   pay   vote wait   know   protest   concentrate   prepare   adapt depend   consent   react   reply   apologise				
to	at	on	for	about
Consent Speak Apologise React Adapt Reply	Laugh Smile Point Work Look Stare	Depend Insist Focus Speak Work Agree Rely Concentrate	Look Wait Apologise Ask Work Vote Pay Prepare	Think Worry Laugh Know Ask Speak Protest

### Exercise 2

Use collocations from exercise 1 to complete the sentences below:

- The people who are helped by our local outreach programs \_\_\_\_\_ our support.
- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ me! It's not funny!
- I have been \_\_\_\_\_ this exam for months.
- It takes a while to \_\_\_\_\_ a new work pattern.
- Did Mr Smith's family \_\_\_\_\_ the DNR notice?
- People are in the street. They are \_\_\_\_\_ the rights of healthcare workers.
- I was a little bit inconsiderate when I moved you earlier. I have come to \_\_\_\_\_ doing it.
- My boss is unapproachable. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- Some of my patients \_\_\_\_\_ living independently although they need assistance. I can't change their minds!
- My eyesight is blurry. I can't \_\_\_\_\_ anything.
- Did you hear the way she \_\_\_\_\_ her husband's nurse? It was very rude.
- If you need anything, just \_\_\_\_\_ help.
- There's no way I am going to \_\_\_\_\_ that politician again. He's a liar!
- I can't \_\_\_\_\_ the economy in this country. It is so unpredictable.
- Did you \_\_\_\_\_ your new washing machine with your credit card?
- It is rude to \_\_\_\_\_ people.