

DEPENDENT PREPOSITIONS.

Certain prepositions follow certain verbs. These are called 'dependent' prepositions.

Test your knowledge with the following gap fill exercise: fill the gap with an appropriate preposition.

- 1 I'm thinking _____ buying a new car.
2. We are worried _____ the stability of the Euro.
3. Would you like to come with us? We're going _____ a curry.
4. Please listen _____ me when I'm talking to you.
5. Please look _____ me when I'm talking to you.
6. Pay no attention to what they say _____ you.
7. Have you heard _____ your brother? It's been ages since you had any news.
8. Could we go _____ the instructions again? I'm not entirely clear about it.
9. Would you like to come with us? We're going _____ an Indian restaurant.
10. What are you talking _____?! I understand nothing at all!

Dependent prepositions: Adjective, Noun or Verb?

This group is not as easy to categorize as 1, 2 & 3 because for simple reasons of meaning, particular prepositions must follow certain verbs, adjectives and nouns.

Both **“Think of”** and **“think about”** are correct, but quite different in meaning, for example.

Test your knowledge with some of the more common prepositions:

Part 1: Adjective + preposition.

For the following set of adjectives A-F, decide which preposition goes with which group. Only one answer is possible.

ABOUT	AT	FROM	OF	ON	TO
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- A. Bad – hopeless – efficient – adept
- B. Similar – applicable – preferable – contrary
- C. Anxious – happy – worried – curious
- D. Dependent – reliant – intent – keen
- E. Different – apart – distinct – exempt
- F. Indicative – typical – illustrative – characteristic

Now try to complete the following sentences using an appropriate adjective from the groups above and its corresponding preposition.

1. I'm absolutely _____ _____ maths – I have never passed a single maths exam!
2. Unfortunately the event was a total flop, which was _____ _____ our expectations.
3. She was very _____ _____ where he had been the night before and asked him lots of questions when he arrived home.
4. Unlike previous generations, nowadays young people are almost totally _____ _____ their parents and stay at home with them until their 30's or 40's.
5. I have a classic car which is so old that I don't have to pay annual road tax because it is _____ _____ all taxes.
6. Throwing a lit cigarette butt onto the ground and believing it to be perfectly acceptable is _____ _____ smokers.

Part 2: Noun + preposition.

Use the noun form of the word in bracket; to fill the blank space. Then choose the correct dependent preposition:

1. (dependent) We are very worried – the economy is not looking good and our company has a high _____ ON / ABOUT the disposable income of the consumer.
2. (indicative) There is no _____ OF / ABOUT a decrease in profits, despite a drop in sales.
3. (apply) The _____ FOR / OF this post must be made in writing.
4. (character) The main _____ ABOUT / OF human beings is our ability to speak.
5. (different) There is very little _____ FROM / BETWEEN humans and chimpanzees.
6. (involve) His _____ TO / IN the project was essential to its success.
7. (contributory) Thank you for your _____ FROM / TO our charity.
8. (hate) I have a special kind of _____ FOR / TO politicians.

Part 3: Verb + preposition.

Now use the verb form of the word in brackets to fill the blank space. Then choose the correct dependent preposition:

1. (dependent) We are very worried – the economy is not looking good and our company _____ ON / OF the disposable income of the consumer too much.
2. (indicative) A drop in sales does not necessarily _____ a decrease OF / IN profits, despite a logical connection between the two.
3. (applicable) To _____ FOR / OF this post, you must request the forms in writing or via email.
4. (Features) We would like you to _____ IN / OF our new film.
5. (different) It is very easy to _____ FROM / BETWEEN humans and chimpanzees.
6. (involvement) He was largely _____ WITH/ IN the new business project.
7. (contributory) Would you please _____ FROM / TO our charity?
8. (Collaborate) I _____ WITH / FROM several different companies.