

150 Everyday Uses of Prepositions in English

with ANSWER KEY

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preposition

A word showing the relationship between a noun or pronoun and another word

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We have made every effort to present it as accurate as possible. This contains short stories, articles and sentences, all of which are fictional and not based on any actual fact or real person.

Why are the prepositions important?

Prepositions are important for many reasons. We direct them in actions and describe the details of what we mean. Understanding prepositions also help you improve your listening skills. That's because you'll understand the details of what people are saying and not just 'the general idea'. But the main reason that you should learn is because your English sound completely awful if you do not use properly. I have taught thousands of students over the years and the one thing

I've realized is that the use of prepositions causes problems for everyone, even advanced students.

Prepositions are literally the glue that holds the English kingdom, without it, it just sounds broken.

Most books only focus on the basic use of prepositions (at 5:00, on a bus, etc.). This book is for students from elementary to intermediate English who want to take their English to the next level. In this book they will learn 150 everyday uses of prepositions. This book will help them speak more fluently

because: Having a good understanding of prepositions will help them get a higher marks in the TOEFL and other tests.

These are blocks of language easy to remember. So they only need to remember the block and do not have to always guess which preposition to use. This will help a lot with their fluency.

We also introduce lots of different phrasal verbs. They will be able to express themselves more fluently if they learn phrasal verbs. All prepositions are introduced into short stories, articles, and sentences to help learn how authentic language used in daily life. There are also examples to help them truly understand how to use them.

There are also exercises to practice at the end of each chapter so they can test their knowledge. So learn these everyday uses of prepositions to make sure they do not speak in broken English.

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The problem with work

Part One

Do you love your job? If you do, you're lucky. I used to hate my job. And I mean *really* hate it. Everyone always says that the key to having a happy career is to 'do what you love'. The only problem was that I had no idea what I loved. I used to work in sales, but I was never really very good at it, so I never made much money. Even though I had a lot of knowledge about the products I just lacked interest in trying to sell them. I should have been focusing on the selling but I was more interested in learning about the other person.

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Prepositions:

The key **to**....: La clave **para**....:

Example: The key to a long marriage is respect.

To work **in**...: Trabajar **en**...

Example: I used to work in I.T

Knowledge **about**...: Conocimiento **sobre**...

Example: I have a lot of knowledge about Scotland because I used to live there for a while.

Interest **in**...: Interés **en**...

Example 1: I have a real interest in history.

Example 2: I am interested in history.

To focus **on**...: Centrarse **en**...

Example: This book focuses on the ‘end of the cold war’.

To learn **about**...: Aprender **acerca de**...

Example: When I was a kid we had to learn about the industrial revolution.

Part Two

Then one Sunday I watched an interview **with** an entrepreneur and I was really inspired **by** what he said. He basically said that **of** 100 people, only 10 of them would be happy in their work. That means that the other 90% would be bored **by** their jobs. This really got me thinking ‘how was I going to change my life? What kind **of** job would I enjoy?’.

Prepositions:

An Interview **with**...: Una entrevista **con**...

Example: There was an interview with the president on the TV last night.

To be inspired **by**...: Estar inspirado/a **por**...

Example: I was really inspired by what he said.

Of (30 students) only (3 of them passed the exam): **De** (30 alumnos) sólo (3 de ellos aprobaron el examen).

Example: Of the whole country only 40% of the population were actually born there.

To be bored **by**...: No preposition needed here in Spanish.

Example: I am bored by most American TV programmes. They are always the same.

A kind **of**...: Un tipo **de**...

Example: What kind of ice cream would you like?

Part Three

Even though I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do, I had a good idea of what my personality is like. I knew that I wouldn't want to be the boss of a company. By that I mean that I wouldn't want any employees. I also knew that I tend to work better on my own and that I like writing. So, I eventually decided to publish my own 'how to' books. Now that I'm self-employed, I'm really happy with how things are going. If I work hard there is usually an increase in sales which of course makes me feel good about what I'm doing. Even though it can be hard I am definitely happy with my decision.

Prepositions:

The boss **of**...: El jefe **de**...:

Example: Who is the boss of ABC company?

To tend **to**...: Tender **a**...:

Example: I tend to put on weight easily.

To be happy **with**...: Estar contento/a **con**...:

Example: I'm happy with his work so far.

An increase **in**...: Un aumento **en**...:

There has been an increase in female viewers since he joined that show.

To feel (good) **about**...: Sentirse (bien) **acerca de**...:

Example: I'm not too sure how I feel about him dating my daughter.

Practice

Practice 1:

You should try and focus.....positive things as much as possible.

There isn't much knowledge.....life in Britain before the Romans.

I went to Japan to learn.....their culture.

My interest.....languages began when I was about 10 years old.

The key.....success is goal setting.

I worked.....education before I became a nurse.

Answers: on, about, about, in, to, in

Practice 2:

I saw an interview.....him just before he died.

I was pretty bored.....him to be honest.

I was inspired.....that film to become a fireman.

.....the 100's of people I met at University, he is the only one I stay in contact with.

What kind.....chef is he?

Answers: with, by, by, of, of

Practice 3:

I'm pretty happy.....my job at the moment.

I tend.....fall asleep reading.

There has been an increase.....sales of flashlights since the storm was announced.

I don't really feel good.....inviting him.

Who is the boss.....that company?

Answers: with, to, in, about, of

**Business Ideas are
Worthless**

Part One

When I graduated **from** university, I had all sorts of ideas **for** businesses that I could start. Usually what would happen was, that I'd be employed **as** a secretary or something and I would suddenly think **of** a great tool that would make my job easier. Or I would think of a service that would be ideal **for** the area that I lived in. The problem was, that I'd think **about** the ideas for a while and then just lose interest and forget **about** them.

Prepositions:

To graduate **from**...: Graduarse **por**...:

Example: I graduated from ABC University in 1999.

An idea **for**...: Una idea **para**...:

Example: I had a great new idea for a website.

To be employed **as**...: Estar empleado/a **como**...:

Example: I was employed as an English teacher when I lived in France.

To think **of**...: Pensar **en**...:

Example: I can think of a 100 reasons why you shouldn't marry that guy.

To be ideal **for**...: Ser ideal **para**...:

This bag is ideal for carrying sports equipment.

To think **about**...: Pensar **en**...

Example 1: I try not to think about my ex-husband.

Example 2: I try not to think about my ex-husband.

To forget **about**...: Olvidarse **de**...

Example: I completely forgot about that!

Part Two

Usually if I didn't immediately forget about the idea, I'd do a tiny bit of research on the subject. I'd often find that a similar brand of product or service already existed and then just give up. I'd think 'I'm not an expert in this field so my idea will never work'. Even if my idea was completely original and perfect for a certain market, I would convince myself that it was impossible and that it would eventually fail.

Prepositions:

A bit **of**...: Un poco **de**...:

Example: After I bought my car I had a bit of money left so I bought a new stereo.

(To do) research **on/about**....: (Hacer) investigación **sobre**....:

Example: It's best to do a bit of research on an area before you move there.

A brand **of**....: Una marca **de**....:

Example: I love that brand of clothing. It's so stylish.

An expert **in** (a subject/field): Un experto **en** (un tema/campo):

Example: He is an expert in British history.

To be perfect **for**....: Ser perfecto **para**....:

Example: I don't know why they never dated. I think they would be perfect for each other.

Part Three

Here's an example. One time I was working in a factory and I noticed that they wasted hours wrapping boxes by hand. I thought of a simple tool that would do the same job but in a 1/10 of the time. But even though it would be an essential tool **for** most factories, I didn't do it because I thought 'I have no experience of manufacturing, so it will never work'. I had no confidence in my own ability. Anyway a few years later I was having a discussion about this idea with a friend of mine. He told me that somebody had actually started manufacturing a similar tool and was making a lot of money. This is why I think that business ideas are worthless. Because anyone can have an idea but it is the 'doing' that really matters.

Prepositions:

Essential **for**...: Esencial **para**...:

Example: It is essential for soldiers to be calm and not to panic.

To have experience **of**...: Tener experiencia **en**...:

Example: I don't have much experience of living in a foreign country.

To have confidence **in**...: Tener confianza **en**...:

Example: I don't have much confidence in government.

A discussion **about**...: Una discusión **sobre**...:

Example: We had a discussion about how we

could expand the company.

A friend **of**...: Un amigo **de**...:

Example: I think that she is a friend of Sue's.

Practice

Practice 1:

What do you think.....buying an electric car?

Have you got any ideas.....what you want for your birthday?

I just want to forget.....it to be honest.

He graduated.....a famous university.

I think this place would be ideal.....having a party in.

I was employed.....a lifeguard when I was younger.

I can't think.....anyone who would buy that.

Answers: about, for, about, from, for, as, of

Practice 2:

She is an expert.....archaeology.

I'm doing research.....where to go on holiday next year.

With a bit.....luck I should pass the exam.

I think that he would be perfect.....working in a school.

What brand.....perfume is that?

Answers: in, on/about, of, for, of

Practice 3:

I don't have much confidence.....him paying me back.

We had a discussion.....politics.

I think she is a friend.....my fathers.

It is essential.....young people to have some privacy.

I enjoyed the experience.....working on a boat.

Answers: in, about, of, for, of

Lost

Part One

A few years ago I had an absolutely terrible experience. I was out walking in the countryside with a group of people when suddenly due to bad weather and fog we became very very lost. We tried to find our way to the nearest road but we just got more and more lost. We also tried our mobile phones but couldn't get through to anyone. I think the weather was interfering with the connection.

Prepositions:

In the countryside...: **En** el campo...:

Example: I absolutely love living in the countryside.

A group **of**...: Un grupo **de**...:

Example: When I was at school a group of us used to go to the cinema every Friday.

To be due **to**...: Debido a.

Example: Due to the fact that I was too short I was not allowed to train as a policeman.

To get **through**...: No preposition is used here in Spanish.

Example: I kept on ringing and was eventually able to get through after a while.

To interfere **with**...: Interferir **con**...:

Example: He was fined for interfering with the police investigation.

Part Two

The group consisted of about 5 adults and 10 kids. After a while a few people suggested that we divided up and go and look for help. At first I thought that this was a good idea, but then had doubts about whether we would all find each other again. Eventually we decided to stick together. After about 2 hours of wandering around it started to get dark and a few people began to panic. Then we started to argue. We would all decide on one plan and then suddenly someone would disagree with it and we would have to think of a new one. In the end I decided that I would have to take control of the situation.

Prepositions:

To consist **of**...: Consistir **en**...

Example: That group mainly consists of retired men.

To divide **up**...: No preposition needed here in Spanish.

Example: After my father died we decided to divide his belongings up between the family.

To have doubts **about**...: Tener dudas **sobre**...:

Example: I had doubts about going to university, but went anyway.

To decide **on**...: No preposition needed here in Spanish.

Example: Every weekend I can never decide on what to do.

To disagree **with**...: Estar en desacuerdo **con**...

Example: Whatever I say, she always disagrees with me.

To take control **of**...: Tomar control **de**...

Example: I have decided that I will finally take control of my finances.

Part Three

We had three options that we could choose from. Firstly, we could just stay where we were. But by this point we were all starting to seriously feel the effects of the cold. Secondly, we could split up and look for help. But as I mentioned, this could mean that we lose each other totally. In the end I decided that it was essential for us to keep moving. This was mainly because I felt that it would keep us warm and that we would have a better chance of finding help. We were fortunate to have flash lights so we could see where we were going. After another hour of walking we eventually found a house. It was the biggest relief of my life.

Prepositions:

To choose **from**...: No preposition needed here in Spanish.

Example: I love going to restaurants, as there's so much great food to choose from.

The effects **of**...: Los efectos **de**...:

Example: I usually start to feel the effects of alcohol after about a pint of beer.

To be essential **for**...: Ser esencial **para**...:

Example: It is essential for the country to have a stable government.

The chance **of**...:

Example: There's more chance of me becoming the president than me winning the lottery.

To be fortunate **to**...: Tener suerte **de**...:

Example: I was fortunate to have been employed by that company because I was able to travel to lots of different countries.

Practice

Practice 1:

I can't go due.....the fact that my passport has expired.

I saw a group.....men arguing.

I love driving.....the countryside.

I rang but couldn't get.....

Don't interfere.....my stuff.

Answers: to, of, in, through, with,

Practice 2:

I've been having doubtswhether this will work.

The army has taken control.....the country.

I disagree.....his methods.

We need to decide.....who gets the promotion.

That band consists.....mostly retired people.

Let's divide.....the land equally.

Answers: about, of, with, on, of, up

Practice 3:

I was fortunate.....change careers when I did.

The effects.....not sleeping are beginning to show.

There are lots of different hire cars to choose.....

Good soil is essential.....growing healthy vegetables.

There's not much chance.....getting your money back.

Answers: to, of, from, for, of

The Internet

Part One

The growth of the internet has been pretty amazing really. If you think about it, it has only been about 20-30 years since it was invented by Tim Berners-Lee. Now everyone uses it, but it wasn't long ago that it was a pretty new concept. I remember I was still at university when I first used it. Before that I wasn't even really sure what it was. I mean, I'd heard of email and stuff like that but I didn't know how to use it.

Prepositions:

The growth **of**...: El crecimiento **de**...:

Example: The growth of the immigrant population has been pretty steady over the past 20 years.

To be invented **by**...: Ser inventado **por**...:

Example: AC/DC was basically invented by Tesla.

To hear **of**...: No preposition is needed here in Spanish.

Example: Have you heard of 'free running'?

At university...: **En** la universidad...:

Example: I met my wife while I was still at university.

Part Two

I remember that I was taking a course on animal behavior at the time and was writing an essay on apes. Usually I'd spend hours looking through old journals for research but this time I thought that I would try this new 'internet' I'd heard about. I was shocked by how fast I was able to gain information. Obviously by today's standards the website was absolutely terrible and took ages to load, but at the time I thought it was great.

Prepositions:

A course **on**...: Un curso **sobre**...:

Example: I have just written a course on business English.

An essay **on**...: Un ensayo **sobre**...:

Example: I have to write an essay on Shakespeare.

To look **through**...: There is no preposition needed here in Spanish.

Example: I looked through the travel brochure and decided that I would like to visit Germany.

To be shocked **by**...: Asombrarse **de**...:

Example: I was shocked by how much violence is in that film.

By today's standards...: **Según** los estándares actuales...:

Example: By today's standards, that film is not shocking, but at the time it was.

Part Three

For a long time after that, I didn't really use the internet much. I sometimes communicated **with** my friends via email but that was about it really. Compared to most people I was a bit slow to realize how useful it was. My friends kept on saying how wonderful it was but I sort of disagreed with them. I thought that it was just a fad and that it would soon go out of fashion. How wrong I was!

Prepositions:

To communicate **with**...: Comunicarse **con**...

Example: It can be difficult to communicate with people if you don't speak the same language.

To compare **to**...: Comparado **con**...:

Example: Compared to Spain, England is absolutely freezing.

Sort **of**...:

Example: To be honest, he's sort of an idiot.

Practice

Practice 1:

Have you heard.....kendo?

We met.....university.

The growth.....that city has been very fast.

Who was the wheel invented.....?

Answers: of, at, of, by

Practice 2:

I looked.....that book in the library.

I was shocked.....his attitude.

My sister is studying a course.....web design.

.....today's standards that computer game is pretty boring.

He wrote an essay.....his father.

Answers: through, by, on, by, on

Practice 3:

He's sort.....strange.

Compared.....Europeans, English people are terrible at languages.

I have been communicating.....that company for a while now.

Answers: of, to, with

The Cost of Living

Part One

Over the past 10 years the cost of living has definitely gone up in Britain. At the same time there really seems to have been a drop in wages. Of course this has led to people being poorer. According to some analysts, the banks are the main cause of these problems.

Prepositions:

The cost **of**...: El coste **de**...:

Example: The cost of living in London is absolutely crazy.

To go **up**...: Subir...: (Not a phrasal verb in Spanish).

Example: House prices can't go up forever.

A drop **in**...: Un descenso **en**...

Example: There has been a drop in the amount of people who want to go to university.

According **to**...: **Según**...

Example: According to recent studies, we should all be eating more fruit and veg! Of course! That's common sense, we don't need a study to tell us that!

The cause **of**...: La causa **de**...

Example: What was the cause of the argument?

Part Two

The average house price has risen by about 300% in 10 years. Many people say that it is a case of 'supply and demand'. So there are more and more people wanting houses and not enough new houses being built. But I think that is a crazy argument. Just think about it for a second. The population hasn't increased by 300% has it? In my opinion, the source of the problem is 'cheap debt'. Because interest rates are so low, people can borrow huge amounts of money very easily. At the moment I'd say that 90% of people with a mortgage would be in serious trouble if interest rates went up. Basically they are exposed to too much debt.

Prepositions:

To rise **by**...: **Aumentar**....:

Example: The stock market has risen by 10% this year so far.

A case **of**...: Un caso **de**...:

Example: It was a case of ‘I have to fire someone, so who will it be?’

To increase **by**...: **Aumentar**...:

Example: The workforce has increased by 3 members.

The source **of**...: La fuente **de**...:

Example: What is the source of all her anger

toward me?

At the moment...: En este momento...:

Example: At the moment I'm thinking about moving country.

(...) % of...: El (...)% de...:

Example: 30% of my friends have started their own companies.

To be in trouble...: Tener problemas...:

Example: I get the feeling that he is in financial trouble.

To be exposed **to**...: Ser expuesto **a**...:

Example: I don't think that children should be exposed to that sort of bad language.

Part Three

Another problem is that there is demand for UK property as an investment. So people are buying these properties and no one is even living there. They are just buying them because the prices keep going up, not because they want to actually live there. So basically this is not a real ‘supply and demand’ situation. This seems to be all about the banks and investors profiting off the rising prices and nothing to do with having somewhere to live (the usual use of a house). Unfortunately that is the nature of people. We will only realize what a huge mistake it’s been when it’s too late. It is worrying when the success of the economy depends on cheap debt and not actually doing anything productive.

Prepositions:

A demand **for**...: Una demanda **por**...

Example: There is more and more demand for skilled labour nowadays.

As an investment...: Como una inversión...: (But 'como' is not a preposition in Spanish).

Example: I think of my education as an investment.

To be all **about**...: Trata **de**...

Example: The story is all about how this family survives the war.

To profit **off**...: Beneficiarse **de**...

Example: I think it is bad that illegal download

sites profit off other people's hard work.

The nature **of**...: La naturaleza **de**...:

Example: The nature of business is that you have to be the first or the best if you want to succeed.

The success **of**...: El éxito **de**...:

Example: I was surprised by the success of that book.

To depend **on**...:

Example: I depend on the money I make in the evenings to pay for my university fees.

Practice

Practice 1:

According.....my husband, I snore!

The cost.....holidays has gone down recently.

There has been a drop.....the amount of tourists around here recently.

Stamps have just gone.....in price.

What was the cause.....the argument?

Answers: to, of, in, up, of

Practice 2:

The value of my car has increased.....20% since I fixed the engine.

I was exposed.....some pretty scary stuff when I was travelling through that country.

.....the moment I'm living in an apartment, but I hope to move soon.

30%.....the people around here are retired.

It was just a case.....‘we are no longer in love, so let's get a divorce’.

He is.....trouble with the police.

I think that he was the source.....the rumour.

Unemployment will rise.....3% this year.

Answers: by, to, at, of, of, in, of, by

Practice 3:

My father is famous, but I haven't profited.....his name.

She was surprised by the success.....her first film.

I depend.....my second job so I can live.

The nature.....the stock market is always changing.

There is not much demand.....sunglasses in England, but you could sell them in Spain instead.

It's all.....*who* you know and **not** *what* you know.

I bought that classic car.....an investment.

Answers: off, of, on, of, for, about, as

How To Be Lazy

Part One

I am very lazy. I am always looking for the easiest way to do things. Because of this I have developed a few excellent effort saving techniques. If you are interested in quick ways to get fit and to cook then this chapter is aimed at you.

Health: Because I basically hate physical activity I was slowly becoming more and more unfit. After a while I decided to try and fix this, but I wanted to do it in the quickest possible way. So I searched for the most effective exercises. I found out that skipping rope and trampolining are absolutely great forms of exercise. This is because the influence of gravity when you jump puts pressure on your muscles which helps you get fit quickly. Actually, 10 minutes of skipping is equal to 30 minutes of jogging. So that's a simple, quick way to get fit.

Prepositions:

To be aimed **at**...: Estar dirigido **a**...:

Example: That film is aimed at younger audiences.

To search **for**...: Buscar...: (No preposition in Spanish).

Example: I've been searching for a new house for a few months now.

To find **out**...: Descubrir...: (No preposition in Spanish).

Example: I found out that there is actually a gym on my road.

A form **of**...: Una forma **de**...:

Example: Most advertising is a form of manipulation.

The influence **of**...: La influencia **de**...:

Example: The influence of parents is important for shaping a child's personality.

Pressure **on**...: Presión **sobre**...:

Example: Nowadays there's a lot of pressure on young people.

To be equal **to**...:

Example: Eating a chocolate bar is equal to eating about 4-5 apples.

Part Two

Cooking: The easiest and most healthy way of cooking I've found is to not actually cook! Just eat everything raw! I was amazed by the results.

Firstly I lost loads of weight. Also I felt a real increase in energy. If that sounds a bit too boring for you, why don't you try steaming vegetables instead. It still keeps most of the nutrients and it is very easy to do.

Prepositions:

Loads **of**...: Montones **de**...

Example: There are loads of tourist attractions in London.

An increase **in**...: Un aumento **en**...

Example: Because of the bad weather there has been an increase in traffic accidents recently.

Practice

Practice 1:

In my opinion, doing self study on the internet is equal.....studying at a university.

The influence.....online shopping has caused problems for many high street shops.

I need to find.....more about healthy eating.

What he does is a form.....bullying.

There is a lot of pressure.....schools to always be testing the kids.

Comics are usually aimed.....children.

I spent all morning searching.....a new job.

Answers: to, of, out, of, on, at, for

Practice 2:

There are loads.....things I'd like to do in my life.

There has been an increase.....crime of over the past 10 years.

Answers: of, in

Management Styles

Part One

Have you ever had a good boss? I'm often surprised at the number of people who hate their bosses. It would seem that 'management' is crowded with people who are not really suitable for the job. But are bosses really that bad? Or are they just blamed for everything because we all basically don't want to go to work?

Prepositions:

To be surprised **at**...: Estar sorprendido **por**...

Example: I'm surprised at how many people can't actually drive.

The number **of**...: El número **de**...

Example: The number of bees seems to be going down every year.

To be crowded **with**...: Estar abarrotado **con**...:

Example: The job market is crowded with university graduates at the moment.

To be suitable **for**...: Ser apropiado **para**...:

Example: I think that this painting would be suitable for the sitting room.

To be blamed **for**...: Ser culpado **por**...:

Example: When I was younger I used to get blamed for everything, even if it wasn't my fault.

Part Two

I was a manager for a short time but I really didn't like it. This was mostly because I was responsible **for** everything. Of course there were some aspects **of** it that I liked but mostly I just felt like I was under pressure all of the time. Because the success of the project was my responsibility, I just worried about it constantly. And of course we all know that worrying is a huge waste **of** energy.

Prepositions

To be responsible **for**...: Ser responsable **de**...

Example: My parents always said that I was responsible for looking after my younger brother at school.

Aspects **of**...: Aspectos **de**...:

Example: There are some aspects of living in England that I like and others that I don't.

To be **under** pressure...: Estar **bajo** presión...:

Example: I am under pressure to finish writing this book!

A waste **of**...: Una pérdida **de**...:

Example: I think that watching TV is a waste of time....but I still do it!

Part Three

After being both a manager and an employee, I think that I have a clear idea of what makes a good boss.

Firstly: If you are at the top of the organisation you should listen to your employees.

Secondly: As the leader of the group you should understand that you benefit from the success of the company more than the actual employees.

Thirdly: You have to account for the fact that you have more experience than your employees, and that they may not do everything the same way as you.

Lastly: Remain calm. No one likes to get shouted at.

Prepositions:

The top **of**...: La cima **de**...:

Example: The problem about being at the top of your career is that you may fall down.

The leader **of**...: El líder **de**...:

Example: The leader of the gang was jailed for life.

To benefit **from**...: Beneficiarse **de**...:

Example: This area has benefitted from lots of outside investment.

To account **for**...: Representar...: (No preposition

in Spanish)

Example: I think that the income from oil accounts for a lot of that country's wealth.

The same **as**...: Igual **que**...: (But 'que' is not a preposition in Spanish).

Example: I would like to be able to play golf the same as Tiger Woods but that may take a little practice.

Practice

Practice 1:

I was surprised.....how easy it was to start a company.*

He was blamed.....the fall of the company.

I can't remember the number.....jobs that I've had.

I don't think that he would be suitable.....the role.

That town is crowded.....small dirty buildings.

Answers: at, for, of, for, with

*In this case you could also use 'by'.

Practice 2:

He is responsible.....getting this festival organised.

I think that supplements are a waste.....money.

I am.....pressure to produce more for a cheaper price.

There are aspects.....science that actually scare me.

Answers: for, of, under, of

Practice 3:

Freelance work accounts.....most of my income.

This brand works the same.....the more famous one. Except it is much cheaper.

I'll see you at the top.....the mountain.

This town benefits.....being very popular with tourists.

Who is the leader.....this group?

Answers: for, as, of, from, of

Past Crimes

Part One

Recently in Britain there have been dozens of celebrities and politicians that have been investigated by the police. These people are suspected of indecently assaulting people. The thing that makes this investigation different is that most of the alleged crimes occurred in the past. There are two things of note. One is that the allegations of assault have been made recently, even though the alleged crimes happened a long time ago. Also, all of the accused are famous.

Prepositions:

Dozens **of**...: Docenas **de**....:

Example: Recently there are dozens of new cafes opening in my area.

To be investigated **by**...: Ser investigado **por**...:

Example: That company was investigated by the government.

To be suspected **of**...: Ser sospechoso **de**...:

Example: He was suspected of fraud.

In the past: **En** el pasado:

Example: In the past I have always tried to avoid conflict, but now I try to defend myself instead.

Of note: **Digno de mención**: This is a fixed Spanish expression.

Example: What was of note, was that he never asked anyone for help.

Allegations **of**...: Alegatos **de**...:

Example: There have recently been allegations of fraud about that company.

Part Two

So, why are these alleged crimes only now being investigated? Well, partly it is because one person was convicted of a similar crime and then after that a lot of other people were investigated. So far, not that many people have actually been convicted. But even if they are found not-guilty they have been tainted by the investigation for the rest of their lives.

Prepositions:

To be convicted **of**...: Ser convicto **de**....

Example: He was convicted of murder.

To be tainted **by**...: Ser manchado **por**....

Example: He was tainted by rumors of fraud.

Practice

Practice 1:

What is.....note is that he started his company with only \$100.

That company was investigated.....a famous newspaper.

There are dozens.....reasons why you should study English.

There have been allegations.....misconduct.

I'm not interested in what happened.....the past.
I'm interested in the future.

He was suspected.....cheating.

Answers: of, by, of, of, in, of

Practice 2:

He was convicted.....criminal damage.

That company's image has been tainted.....the scandal.

Answers: of, by

Film Review

I recently watched a film about a young man who was accused of murder. It was apparently based on a true story. The story centres on the murder trial but also shows what happened in the past. Even though it is obvious that he is guilty of the crime it was interesting because you begin to understand his thinking. When he was younger he never had a family and was forced to work for a local crime boss. Even though he seemed quite intelligent, he felt that there was no alternative to crime.

Eventually he realized that his boss was evil and killed him. So even though murder is obviously wrong, he felt that this was the only way he could escape from such a terrible life. It was a strange but quite interesting film about morals.

Prepositions:

To be accused **of**...: Ser acusado **de**...:

Example: His boss accused him of stealing.

To be based **on**...: Estar basado **en**...:

Example: This film is based on a famous book.

To centre **on**...: Centrarse **en**...:

Example: The story centres on the actions of a General in a war.

To be guilty **of**...: Ser culpable **de**...:

Example: He is guilty of lying in court.

To be forced **to**...: Verse obligado **a**...:

Example: If I don't get a job soon, I will be forced to sell my house.

An alternative **to**...: Una alternativa **a**...:

Example: Is there an alternative to aspirin?

To escape **from**...: Escapar **de**...:

Example: A prisoner escaped from jail today.

Practice

Practice:

The school boy was accused.....cheating on his exam.

He escaped.....his country 3 years ago.

The story centres.....the lives of one family.

Is there an alternative.....that bus service?

That film is based.....a popular game.

He was forced.....resign.

He was guilty.....faking the results.

Answers: of, from, on, to, on, to, of

Welcome to the Jungle?

Part One

It's funny how things happen, isn't it? A few years ago I was just sitting in a café and reading through some old magazines. Then suddenly I saw a photo of a ruined city in the middle of a rain forest.

Below the photo it said that a group was looking for volunteers to do a charity trek there. To be eligible to go, you had to be under 50 and in good shape. I decided then and there that I would get some sponsors and go.

Prepositions:

A photo **of**...: Una foto **de**...:

Example: I saw a photo of Paris and knew that I wanted to live there someday.

To be eligible **to/for**...: Tener derecho **a**...:

Example 1: Only children are eligible to go.

Example 2: Only children are eligible for a discount.

In good shape...: **En** buena forma...:

Example: I'm in pretty good shape.

Part Two

The trip was organised **by** a big charity. The leader of the expedition was a pretty famous explorer. He was a very interesting guy as his approach to leadership was basically ‘do as I say or you might get killed’. The jungle was a dangerous place so most people chose to listen to him. The trek was very tough but the thing that bothered me the most was all of the mosquitoes. I was very thankful for the invention of bug repellent.

Prepositions:

To be organised **by**...: Ser organizado/a **por**...:

Example: The party was organised by the pupils of my local school.

An approach **to**...: Un enfoque **hacia**...:

Example: He has a good approach to parenting.

Choose **to**...:

Example: When I was younger I choose to not go to University, and just get a job instead.

The invention **of**...: La invención **de**...:

Example: The invention of the car has completely changed the world.

Part Three

By the time we arrived at the ruins I was absolutely exhausted. We arrived at night so we didn't get to see the ruined city until the next day. Even though I'd seen photos in magazines and on the internet, I was totally unprepared for seeing it in person. It was the most spectacular thing I'd ever seen in my life. I will never forget it, but I will not miss those mosquitoes!

Prepositions:

To arrive **at** (somewhere): Llegar **a** (algún sitio):

Example: We arrived at the hotel just before they were closing.

In magazines...: **En** revistas...:

Example: I read about it in a magazine.

On the internet...: **En** Internet...:

Example: I read about it on the internet.

To be (un)prepared **for**...: (No) Estar preparado/a **para**...:

Example 1: I was prepared for an argument, but to my surprise she just agreed with me.

Example 2: I was completely unprepared for the shock of divorce.

In person...: **En** persona...:

Example: I had never met a famous actor in person before.

Practice

Practice 1:

She is.....good shape for her age.

When you reach 65 you are eligible.....free bus journeys.

I saw a photo.....my grandmother and she looked just like me.

Answers: in, for, of

Practice 2:

I chose.....not get married.

Who was this event organised.....?

The invention.....the internet has changed the world.

He has a unique approach.....parenting.

Answers: to, by, of, to

Practice 3:

I saw it.....a magazine.

I am prepared.....the meeting.

I met the prince.....person when I was visiting Spain.

I arrived.....the station at 10 am.

I read about it.....the internet.

Answers: in, for, in, at, on

How did I get here?

Part One

I have always been attracted to the idea of personal freedom. I know others like the stability of working for a company, but I've never really liked it. Of course even though I am self-employed, I am dependent on others to employ me. But I don't really have a boss. Actually, for half of my life I worked for a big company but I always knew that I wanted to do something else.

Prepositions:

To be attracted **to**...: Sentirse atraído/a **por**...

Example: She is always attracted to the wrong sort of men.

The stability **of**...: La estabilidad **de**...:

Example: I have always enjoyed the stability of living in England.

To work **for**...: Trabajar **para**...:

Example: I used to want to work for a mobile phone company.

To be dependent **on**...: Dependier **de**...:

Example: I don't like the idea of being dependent on anyone.

Half **of**...: La mitad **de**...:

Example: He only ate half of his dinner.

Part Two

For a long time I knew that self-employment would be ideal for me but I had no idea of what I wanted to do. So I started to read as much as possible about being self-employed. All the books said that you need to focus on what you are good at. Even though I was inspired by these books I still had no idea of what I was good at.

Prepositions:

An idea **of**...: Una idea **de**...:

Example: I had no idea of how big Australia actually was until I went there.

To need **to**...: Necesitar...: (No preposition in

Spanish).

Example: I need to get in shape.

To be good **at**...: Ser bueno **en**...:

Example: He's never been good at sports.

Part Three

I got into the habit of writing out ten new ideas a day. It didn't matter if they were good ideas or not, I just wanted to take action. I knew that if I kept on taking action, it would lead to something.

Eventually after about a month of doing this I finally had a plan of what I was going to do. I was going to concentrate on languages (as I knew a lot about them). There was already a lot of material out there but I was going to produce products for everyday use and not just for passing exams. You are currently reading one of them!

Prepositions:

A habit **of**...: La costumbre **de**...:

Example: He has a habit of saying the wrong thing.

To write **out**...: Escribir...: (No preposition in Spanish).

Example: It's always a good idea to write out a business plan before you get started.

To lead **to**...: Llevar **a**...:

Example: I'm hoping that this job will lead to bigger opportunities.

A plan **of**...: Un plan **de**...:

Example: He didn't have a plan of action. That's why he failed.

To concentrate **on**...: Concentrarse **en**...

Example: I find it difficult to concentrate on one thing at a time.

Practice

Practice 1:

I am attracted.....a challenge.

I only saw the first half.....that film.

He is completely dependent.....his parents for money.

I enjoy the stability.....having a job.

She has worked.....that company since she graduated.

Answers: to, of, on, of, for

Practice 2:

He is good.....public speaking.

I have an idea.....where I want to live after I retire.

He needs.....relax a bit.

Answers: at, of, to

Practice 3:

Have you got a plan.....what you are going to do?

Try to concentrate.....one project at a time.

Maybe this job will lead.....other things.

He has a habit.....repeating himself.

Write.....your future plans.

Answers: of, on, to, of, out

Smell the Roses

Life can get pretty busy sometimes. I think we all get so absorbed in work and our everyday lives that we lose our sense of what is important in life. The meaning of life is probably different for everyone. But we all tend to worry about what *might* happen and what we *want*, rather than concentrating on *living* and appreciating *the lives we have*. Of course we all have the freedom to do whatever we want, but I feel that we all need to take a moment sometimes to appreciate the true mystery of being alive! This reminds me of the phrase ‘sometimes you should take the time to smell the roses’.

Prepositions:

To be absorbed **in**: Estar absorbido/a **por**:

Example: My son is totally absorbed in that book.

A sense **of**: Un sentido **de**:

Example: I have a sense of pride in my work.

The meaning **of**: El significado **de**:

Example: What is the meaning of this letter?

The freedom **to**: La libertad **de**:

Example: You all have the freedom to quit whenever you like.

The mystery **of**: El misterio **de**:

Example: This book is about the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle.

To remind one **of**: Recordar: (No preposition in Spanish).

Example: She reminds me of a girl I knew at school.

Practice

Practice:

I am absorbed.....this TV series.

Now that I'm retired, I have the freedom.....wake up whenever I want.

The mystery.....why that boat sank has never been explained.

This place reminds me.....where I grew up.

I never understood the meaning.....that song.

He has no sense.....humor.

Answers: in, to, of, of, of, of

