

- Cover the PREPOSITION column on the right, and test yourself.

Adjective + preposition

PREPOSITION

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1 We weren't aware _____ the problem with our ticket until we got to the airport. | of |
| 2 The film, which is set in Sweden, is based _____ a best-selling novel. | on |
| 3 I can't eat prawns because I'm allergic _____ seafood. | to |
| 4 Are you familiar _____ the computer software we use? | with |
| 5 As marketing manager I am responsible _____ all our publicity campaigns. | for |
| 6 Her dress was identical _____ mine. It was so embarrassing! | to |
| 7 I'm fed up _____ waiting for the electrician to come. I'm going out. | with |
| 8 My grandmother is especially fond _____ her eldest grandchild. | of |
| 9 My wife is not very keen _____ me buying a sports car. | on |
| 10 My cousin is a great linguist – she's fluent _____ four languages. | in |
| 11 We're very dissatisfied _____ the service we received at your establishment. | with |
| 12 She may be old, but she's quite capable _____ looking after herself. | of |
| 13 The flight was delayed for two hours due _____ a technical fault. | to |
| 14 My younger brother is absolutely mad _____ motor racing. | about |
| 15 My family are hooked _____ that new series – we never miss it. | on |
| 16 I'm sick _____ listening to her complain about how many hours she has to work. | of |
| 17 Jack is very upset _____ the way the company treated him when he was ill. | about |
| 18 My wife's name is Fran, which is short _____ Francesca. | for |

Preposition + noun

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1 _____ theory it only takes two days to renew the visa, but _____ practice it takes a week. | In/in |
| 2 The travel agent has asked us to pay 50% of the cost of the holiday _____ advance . | in |
| 3 I'm quite sure that he did that _____ purpose , because he knew it would annoy her. | on |
| 4 The teacher makes us learn lots of phrases _____ heart and then tests us on them. | by |
| 5 I need a definite answer from you by the end of next week _____ the latest . | at |
| 6 We didn't arrange to meet. I just saw her on the bus _____ chance . | by |
| 7 I saw the interview with the President _____ the news last night. | on |
| 8 Climate change is always _____ the news these days – on TV, radio, and in the newspapers. | in |
| 9 Be careful with Nora today. She's _____ a very bad mood . | in |
| 10 It was very difficult at first but everything worked out well _____ the end . | in |
| 11 I sent a very romantic email to my boss instead of my girlfriend _____ mistake . | by |
| 12 I did all that work _____ nothing . The teacher forgot to collect in our essays. | for |
| 13 My sister and her husband broke up last year, but they are still _____ good terms . | on |
| 14 I don't eat in that restaurant _____ principle . I've heard they treat their staff very badly. | on |
| 15 _____ principle , they have agreed to rent the house to us, but we need to work out the details. | In |
| 16 The company are heavily _____ debt and may have to close down. | in |
| 17 In California smoking on beaches is _____ the law . | against |
| 18 _____ a rule I'm usually in bed by 11.00 during the week. At weekends I stay up later. | As |

- Keep a record of other examples of dependent prepositions. These can also be found in dictionaries, such as the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*.

● Cover the PREPOSITION column on the right, and test yourself.

Verb + preposition

- | | PREPOSITION |
|---|-------------|
| 1 Simon insisted ____ paying for everything when we went out. | on |
| 2 The exam consists ____ speaking, writing, listening, reading, and English in use papers. | of |
| 3 I can't concentrate ____ what I'm doing with all that noise outside. | on |
| 4 His ex-wife took revenge ____ him by cutting up all his suits. | on |
| 5 The government was heavily criticized ____ not acting faster. | for |
| 6 I need to translate this document ____ German. Can you help me? | into |
| 7 My brother is a lawyer who specializes ____ criminal law. | in |
| 8 We're still waiting for Laura to apologize ____ her awful behaviour last night. | for |
| 9 Everyone blamed me ____ the mistake, even though it wasn't my fault. | for |
| 10 The police have accused her ____ stealing from her employer. | of |
| 11 I'm so hard up I'm going to have to borrow some money ____ my sister. | from |
| 12 It's often not a good idea to lend money ____ a friend. | to |
| 13 We have succeeded ____ reducing unemployment to less than 5% of the workforce. | in |
| 14 I think the film is definitely aimed ____ people under 25. I didn't enjoy it at all. | at |
| 15 I was named ____ my grandmother, who died before I was born. | after |
| 16 I know I can rely ____ you to keep a secret. | on |
| 17 We need to divide this ____ four equal parts | into |
| 18 I'm going to complain to the manager ____ this. | about |

Noun + preposition

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1 There doesn't seem to be an easy solution ____ the problem. | to |
| 2 The reason ____ the delay was the late arrival of the incoming flight. | for |
| 3 I have quite a lot of difficulty ____ remembering names and faces. | in |
| 4 There is an urgent need ____ qualified teachers to work in developing nations. | for |
| 5 The police have reported a sharp increase ____ crimes involving identity theft. | in |
| 6 I have absolutely no intention ____ resigning. | of |
| 7 There is going to be a full investigation ____ the causes of the accident. | into |
| 8 I'm sure there is going to be a lot of protest ____ the new law. | against |
| 9 Jack has a lot of respect ____ his grandfather's achievements. | for |
| 10 There's no point ____ getting angry about it. It's too late now. | in |
| 11 The rescue services say that there is no hope ____ finding any more survivors. | of |
| 12 My boss has asked me to write a report ____ the new computer system. | on / about |
| 13 The lack ____ water is becoming a very serious problem in some countries. | of |
| 14 The new managing director has a reputation ____ being very ruthless. | for |
| 15 I think the government's attitude ____ single-parent families is changing. | to / towards |

● Keep a record of other examples of dependent prepositions. These can also be found in dictionaries, such as the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*.