

Using Prepositions and Particles

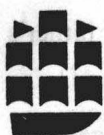
Workbook One

J. B. Heaton

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Longman

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Preface

This book is the first of three graded workbooks on prepositions and adverbial particles. It is intended for overseas students who have already some knowledge of English sentence patterns and vocabulary. Many such students find that they are still making mistakes in using prepositions; certain others experience difficulty in understanding prepositional phrases and phrasal verbs.

The workbooks have been written to accompany the author's *Prepositions and Adverbial Particles*, but they may also be used independently of this book. They are intended primarily to provide students with sufficient practice in using prepositions and phrasal verbs. It has long been felt that this wide subject constitutes one of the major areas of difficulty for students learning English as a second or foreign language.

Exercise 1

After, behind, over, under

Fill in each space with *after, behind, over, or under* in the following sentences.

1. The horse refused to jump _____ the fence.
2. How can you possibly have seen a man who was hiding _____ a tree?
3. We all decided to shelter _____ the branches of the old oak tree.
4. Mrs Hill turned round to look at the lady sitting in the row _____ us.
5. Mr and Mrs Green quarrelled _____ the new car: she thought it was too expensive.
6. A big lorry ran _____ Allan's kite.
7. My brother began to cry when he saw Ann holding a stick _____ her apron.
8. Peter could hardly believe that such a beautiful pen was _____ five dollars; his old pen had cost more than twice as much, for he had paid _____ ten dollars for it.
9. The detective who ran _____ the fat thief soon caught him.
10. Tell Joe to hurry up: he is _____ all the other runners in the race.
11. There was a small cut _____ the gipsy's chin.
12. Our new school is situated _____ the park.
13. We arrived at the party shortly _____ seven o'clock.
14. The road is very dark here, for it runs _____ the railway bridge.
15. Your milkman has not come yet: he is _____ with the milk this morning.
16. Mr Johnson could never have started his shop if a rich friend had not been _____ him.
17. The picture which won the first prize was an oil-painting _____ Picasso: some people even thought it was by Picasso.
18. When Jack returned to school _____ his long illness, he found that he was _____ the rest of the class.
19. Smith is studying _____ Professor Long.
20. The police are taking great care this year _____ last year's riots.
21. There were _____ a thousand people present at the wedding.
22. Uncle Tom and I realised at once that something very strange was _____ my father's sudden departure.

23. Many people were imprisoned without a trial _____ the old government.
24. The argument was _____ a very small matter.
25. Please write your initials on the same line _____ your surname.
26. A thick mist soon spread _____ the fields.
27. Only children _____ ten years of age are old enough to apply for entry to the school.
28. You deserve to pass the examination _____ working so hard.

Exercise 2

On, in, off

Fill in each space with *on*, *in*, or *off* in the following sentences.

1. _____ thinking again about the matter, I must admit that you were right and I was wrong.
2. The small boy fell _____ the high wall and broke his legs.
3. What are you doing _____ Thursday evening?
4. I am studying for my examinations. They will be held _____ July.
5. Inspector Playton gave an interesting talk _____ Road Safety.
6. I live _____ Bombay; that is my house _____ the hill.
7. His house is _____ the other side of the river _____ front of the small wood.
8. Mrs Brown waited a long time but couldn't get _____ a bus, so she took a taxi. Did you see her getting _____ the taxi?
9. Dr Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile _____ four minutes.
10. You cannot see the house because it is a little way _____ the main road.
11. There was a beautiful statue _____ the church.
12. She broke a piece _____ the big bar of chocolate and gave it to me.
13. There were many well-known people _____ the audience.
14. Many of my friends are _____ the club and my best friend is _____ the committee.
15. She has a diamond ring _____ her finger.
16. Did you read my essay _____ China?

Exercise 3

Word order

A preposition is generally placed before the noun or the pronoun which it governs. Rewrite the following sentences, putting each preposition in its correct place.

1. The play was written Bernard Shaw. (by)
1. _____
2. We arrived early the station. (at)
2. _____
3. The soldiers were hiding the trees. (among)
3. _____
4. I left the meeting him. (before)
4. _____
5. The boat drifted slowly the river. (down)
5. _____
6. The aeroplanes appeared to be flying the border. ((towards))
6. _____
7. They all attended the lecture John. (except)
7. _____
8. The whole matter is now a joke. (beyond)
8. _____
9. They promised to be here five o'clock. (around)
9. _____
10. There is a strange metal object the surface. (under)
10. _____
11. Mr Cross hammered the door. (on)
11. _____
12. The little boy who talks a Scottish accent has come. (with)
12. _____
13. Thomas painted the sign. (over)
13. _____
14. What is the flag flying the door? (above)
14. _____

15. A black cat was sleeping the chair. (behind)

15. _____

16. The horse refused to jump the gate. (over)

16. _____

17. It was his dignity to say that he was sorry. (beneath)

17. _____

18. Is that your coat mine? (underneath)

18. _____

19. Young Tony has got trouble. (into)

19. _____

20. Workmen were busy the railway-line. (along)

20. _____

21. She has been living here twelve years. (for)

21. _____

22. The river by-passes the wood and flows the town. (through)

22. _____

23. The concert was attended by two hundred people. (over)

23. _____

24. He gave the beggar money many clothes. (besides)

24. _____

25. What did you do the Easter holidays? (during)

25. _____

26. Jack has never been us. (near)

26. _____

27. He wished to see no one his own son. (but)

27. _____

28. He gave me a new pen the work I had done. (for)

28. _____

29. He wanted to travel night. (by)

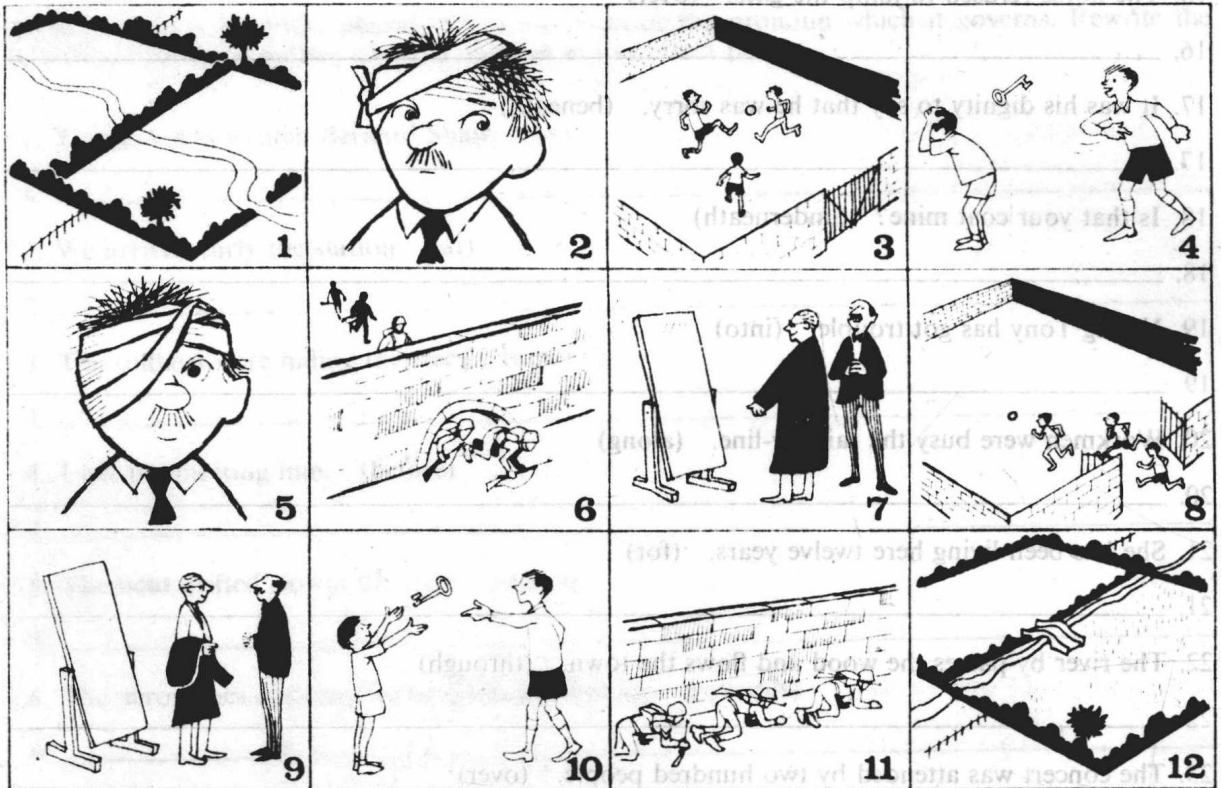
29. _____

30. I sat the fire because I was cold. (in front of)

30. _____

Exercise 4

Prepositions easily confused



Each sentence below describes one of the pictures above. Put the number of the right picture against each sentence.

1. The boys were running in the playground. _____
2. The boys were running into the playground. _____
3. He had a bandage over his eye. _____
4. He had a bandage above his eye. _____
5. A man in a black coat is in the shop. _____
6. A man with a black coat is in the shop. _____
7. The stream ran through the two fields. _____
8. The stream ran between the two fields. _____
9. He threw the key at the small child. _____
10. He threw the key to the small child. _____
11. The soldiers crawled slowly under the wall. _____
12. The soldiers crawled slowly under the wall. _____

Exercise 5

After, before, during, until, by

Fill in each space with *after*, *before*, *during*, *until*, or *by* in the following sentences.

1. 'You cannot remain at school _____ such disgraceful conduct,' said the principal.
2. John succeeded in reaching the top _____ sheer determination.
3. Will you visit my parents in Tokyo _____ your visit to Japan?
4. 'You must wait in the queue until the people who are _____ you have been served,' the shopkeeper said.
5. I did not hear the good news _____ Jack's arrival.
6. We decided to travel _____ night and sleep _____ the day.
7. The waiter ran _____ the customer with his bill.
8. I arrived a few minutes _____ seven o'clock, so I was in time to catch the 6.58 train.
9. John did not get up _____ nine o'clock: he was just in time to hear the beginning of the nine o'clock news on the radio.
10. Old Mr Blinks will have been at the school for thirty-five years _____ September next year.
11. The old man was silent _____ putting the telephone down no one knew the reason _____ the end of the evening. Then he told us that his son was very ill.
12. We passed _____ the old castle on our way to the meeting.
13. Thousands of soldiers were killed _____ the fierce battle.
14. I heard the sound of someone running _____ me but I did not stop to turn round.
15. Many ships were lost _____ the terrible storm.
16. The big dog recognised his master _____ so many years of being parted.
17. Do you wish to go to Singapore _____ Ceylon or direct?
18. You will have to wait _____ tomorrow morning to find out the results.
19. The headmaster gave the school a day's holiday _____ its success in the sports.
20. This water-colour is _____ the famous artist, Constable; he painted it when he was a young man.
21. We all had plenty of time to relax _____ our holiday.
22. The man was a clerk _____ his present job.
23. He cheated everyone _____ his clever tricks.
24. Who is the woman standing _____ Mr Miller?
25. How could you have invited John _____ everything you said about his dishonesty?

Exercise 6

To, at, in

Fill in each space with *to*, *at*, or *in* in the following sentences.

1. Haworth, the home of the Brontë sisters, is a small village _____ Yorkshire.
2. The guide accompanied the tourists _____ the entrance of the cave, but would not go any further.
3. President Washington lived _____ America.
4. I was born _____ 15 Great Victoria Street, Lagos.
5. The class went for a walk _____ the country.
6. Does this bus stop _____ the bank?
7. Many children _____ the crowd were waving small flags.
8. The aeroplane is flying _____ Australia.
9. There are thousands of refugees _____ Hong Kong.
10. Several policemen were standing _____ the road.
11. We arrived _____ the station just in time to catch the train.
12. My uncle has rented a small house _____ the back of the park.
13. At what time do you go _____ the office?
14. Canton is a large city _____ South China.
15. The happy couple were married _____ the end of the story.
16. Peter threw a stone _____ the old man.
17. Is this the last bus _____ Cairo tonight?
18. Who is that _____ the door?
19. They live _____ a valley _____ the bottom of the hill.
20. Smoking is not allowed _____ this building.
21. I saw her standing _____ the window, waving to everyone who passed by.
22. Much _____ everyone's surprise, John wanted to hit the big man.
23. We saw Mr and Mrs Lee _____ Easter and arranged for them to visit us _____ October. So we shall see them _____ two months.
24. 'Aim _____ the centre of the target,' Sergeant White said.
25. The painter sleeps _____ the afternoon and begins his work _____ night.

Exercise 7

Word order

Rewrite the following sentences, putting each preposition in its correct place.

Example: Mary gave the book her brother. (to)
Mary gave the book to her brother.

1. He asked the teacher the book. (for)

1. _____

2. The lawyer convinced the jury North's innocence. (of)

2. _____

3. You should not have excused him duty. (from)

3. _____

4. The poor captives begged the king mercy. (for)

4. _____

5. Mrs Johnson divided the money her two sons. (between)

5. _____

6. The queen congratulated the winner his success. (on)

6. _____

7. He always kept his car a nearby garage. (in)

7. _____

8. The bandit robbed the villagers their goods. (of)

8. _____

9. The judge pardoned the young boy his offence. (for)

9. _____

10. Jean instructed her pupil the art of dancing. (in)

10. _____

11. Professor Day examined the candidates physics. (in)

11. _____

12. The helpful man directed us the hotel. (to)

12. _____

13. He kept some information the detectives. (from)

13. _____

14. I trusted him my money. (with)

14. _____

15. He questioned everyone the recent argument. (about)

15. _____

16. How can you justify your actions him? (to)

16. _____

Exercise 8

Prepositions introducing participle phrases

Answer each question below by joining the correct part of the sentence in column *B* with each part in column *A*.

A

Mr Brown rewarded John
He wants to punish the boys
Joan started her new job
We are preparing for the test
Lily apologised to us
We thanked Mr Lee
Someone paid us
He will not forgive Henry

B

by arriving before the other workers.
for his bad manners.
by refusing to talk to them.
for acting in the film.
for being rude.
by giving him some money.
by reading these books at home.
for taking us on the picnic.

How?

1. How did Mr Brown reward John?

1. _____

2. How does he want to punish the boys?

2. _____

3. How did Joan start her new job?

3. _____

4. How are we preparing for the test?

4. _____

Why?

5. Why did Lily apologise to us?

5. _____

6. Why did we thank Mr Lee?

6. _____

7. Why did someone pay us?

7. _____

8. Why will he not forgive Henry?

8. _____

Exercise 9

From, of, by, with

Fill in each space with *from*, *of*, *by*, or *with* in the following sentences.

1. Mr Peabody is the uncle _____ the famous statesman.
2. Grace won the music competition _____ practising hard every day.
3. The other girl, however, won _____ the help of her father.
4. How far is New York _____ San Francisco?
5. William was helped _____ his father.
6. She cut the cake _____ a silver knife.
7. The Philippines are south _____ Hong Kong.
8. Peter ran to meet me and, _____ a big smile, told me the happy news.
9. May suddenly fainted _____ the great shock.
10. She was treated for shock _____ two nurses.
11. He was a man _____ great learning and knew the answer to every question he was asked.
12. 'You can travel from Hong Kong to Australia _____ Singapore if you wish,' Mr Black said.
13. It was difficult climbing the cliff _____ the old rope.
14. The cat was always being chased _____ the dog.
15. London is a long way _____ Durban, isn't it?
16. The mayor _____ the town opened the new building.
17. It was an easy matter to see that he was a man _____ good taste.
18. This tea is _____ Ceylon. Do you like it?
19. The only person I saw was a man _____ a leather case in his right hand.
20. The old soldier often talked _____ battles long ago.
21. Many people went _____ me while I was waiting for my friend.
22. Lady Rose is travelling to India _____ her sister.
23. 'Choose a book _____ this shelf,' the teacher said.
24. Mr Truelove spoke _____ pride about his son.
25. The box is made _____ wood.
26. Tommy delivered a powerful blow _____ his left hand.
27. Old Mr Reed climbed the hill _____ great difficulty.
28. Mary was only a girl _____ sixteen when war broke out.

Exercise 10

Below, under, above, over

Fill in each space with *below, under, above, or over* in the following sentences.

1. Whose dog is lying _____ this table?
2. The waitress put a clean table-cloth _____ the table.
3. The climber gazed from the top of the mountain and saw small green valleys _____ him.
4. A thick white mist settled _____ the city.
5. The big apple was hanging on the branch _____ me.
6. Joe is so dishonest that he is not _____ bribery.
7. The new bridge _____ the River Dee has now been completed.
8. We bought the car for _____ £200; what a bargain!
9. There is a large plain _____ sea-level, so the district suffers from frequent floods.
10. Mount Everest is _____ 29,000 feet _____ sea-level.
11. The treasure is buried _____ this stone.
12. The strike was _____ the dismissal of a colleague.
13. Disraeli was Prime Minister of England _____ the rule of Queen Victoria.
14. Five aeroplanes suddenly flew _____ our heads.
15. There are ten students _____ me in the examination results: I am the eleventh in the class.
16. The sun slowly sank _____ the horizon.
17. The prisoners escaped by climbing _____ the high wall.
18. The patient's temperature is _____ normal and is rising even further.
19. The sick man replied that he was still _____ doctor's orders.
20. He disagreed with the manager and resigned _____ the subject of future development.
21. The temperature has dropped to _____ freezing-point. Look at that ice!
22. The professor refused to say anything further _____ the recent change of plans.
23. Mr Brown now has thirty people working _____ him: he has a very important job.
24. 'You will find the book _____ "Fine Arts",' the librarian said.
25. The grocer gave me _____ two pounds of oranges, although I paid for only two pounds.
26. The heads of the enemy soldiers _____ that low wall can now be seen.
27. Grass has now grown _____ the old ruin.
28. Mrs Lee put the key _____ the mat.

29. John came _____ the influence of bad people and was a great disappointment to his parents.

30. My dog ran _____ the road to meet us.

Exercise 11

Direct and indirect objects

Rewrite the following sentences, changing the position of the direct and indirect objects in each sentence. You may make any other changes which are necessary.

- Examples:* (i) She gave fifty dollars to her son.
She gave her son fifty dollars.
(ii) Mary took her mother some flowers.
Mary took some flowers to her mother.

1. Throw me the ball.

1. _____

2. Did he offer you a cigarette?

2. _____

3. No, but he gave Tom one.

3. _____

4. Please bring the glass to me.

4. _____

5. The old man paid the doctor a lot of money.

5. _____

6. I read the letter to the blind man.

6. _____

7. 'Have you left your brother a piece of cake?' Peter's mother asked.

7. _____

8. 'I owe a lot to you: you saved my life,' I told him.

8. _____

9. Can anyone lend me a pen? My sister is using mine.

9. _____

10. The teacher showed Jack's untidy work to Mr Smart.
10. _____
11. Save a seat for me, please!
11. _____
12. She bought herself a new dress.
12. _____
13. Mr Jones denied his daughter nothing.
13. _____
14. Hand me a pencil if you can spare one.
14. _____
15. My friend at the theatre got the ticket for me.
15. _____

Exercise 12

Combinations with TO BE

Fill in each space with one of the words or phrases from the list below.

off about to on after in
out of with up out up to

1. Is John _____ ? No, he went to school an hour ago.
2. 'I'm _____ you in your fight against ignorance,' the President told the teachers.
3. The thief was _____ Lady Hartley's necklace.
4. The actress is not _____ yet. She never rises until noon.
5. The singer has been hurt in an accident, so the concert is now _____.
6. What mischief is your younger brother _____ ?
7. I'm _____ matches. Will you run and buy me some more?
8. The boy scouts gathered more wood and borrowed some matches when they saw the fire was _____.
9. I was _____ go to bed when you arrived.
- 13 10. 'Which nurse is _____ from midnight to eight o'clock?' the doctor asked.

Exercise 13

Prepositions easily confused

One of the prepositions given in the brackets completes each sentence. Write the correct preposition against each number.

1. Uncle James will visit us (on, at) Easter. 1. _____
2. 'Your work is (below, behind) average,' the teacher told him. 2. _____
3. The great man is (over, above) such a mean act. 3. _____
4. What will you do (across, between) now and five o'clock? 4. _____
5. The film which we saw was (about, concerning) Japan. 5. _____
6. Sergeant Strong was wounded (with, by) this gun. 6. _____
7. We have lived in this house (since, for) ten years. 7. _____
8. Several other people saw the accident (beside, besides) me. 8. _____
9. The suit cost (under, below) one hundred dollars. 9. _____
10. Long grass has grown (above, over) the old aerodrome. 10. _____
11. We want to live (at, in) London. 11. _____
12. Mr Lee is leaving (on, upon) Wednesday. 12. _____
13. Come (above, over) here and let me see you. 13. _____

Exercise 14

For, since

Fill in each space with *for* or *since* in the following sentences.

1. I haven't seen you _____ more than a year.
2. We waited for the doctor _____ a long time.
3. Mrs Smith said that she had lived abroad _____ fifteen years.
4. She had never been to England _____ 1950.
5. Henry has worked very hard _____ his failure in the examination.
6. I have been ill _____ the last few months.
7. Major Brown has been working in our office _____ his retirement from the army.
8. She will be staying there _____ a month.
9. I have been working overseas _____ last year.
10. I have been working overseas _____ the last year.