

Using Prepositions and Particles

Workbook Three

J. B. Heaton

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Preface

This book is the third 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.

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Exercise 1

Prepositions

Insert the most appropriate preposition into each space in the following sentences.

1. Is Brown _____ the committee?
2. No, he's not even _____ the club.
3. Mrs Jimson was born in 1924. She's _____ forty now.
4. The chances of your succeeding in climbing the mountain are fifty _____ one.
5. The gradient at this point is one _____ three.
6. This book is nothing _____ the author's first novel.
7. Stand shoulder _____ shoulder, and I'll soon tell you who is the taller.
8. The thief held a dagger _____ his long cloak.
9. It was _____ his dignity to argue with the hawk.
10. She soon put me _____ ease and, before the evening had finished, I was _____ her admirers.
11. The aeroplane will have arrived _____ Hong Kong _____ midnight.
12. I feel sure that John will meet us _____ the typhoon warning.
13. Let's go _____ a walk on the cliffs.
14. The two little boys went to the party _____ new suits and _____ clean hands.
15. 'I wish you wouldn't spend so much money _____ me,' Tom's mother said.
16. I'm going to visit Edna _____ Good Friday.
17. What's Mary doing _____ Easter?
18. We met each other _____ Jack: it was he who introduced us.
19. 'Off _____ his head!' the rioters cried.
20. The boy walked on the narrow ledge _____ any fear.
21. She's only a girl _____ fourteen, but she gave an excellent talk _____ world affairs.
22. I translated the article _____ English _____ Mr Jones: he could not read German.
23. 'Manson _____ President!' was the cry.
24. Our form managed to raise two hundred dollars _____ the refugees.
25. This plan will not succeed: I'm _____ it.

Exercise 2

Verbs, nouns, and adjectives followed by prepositions

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

1. He distinguished himself (by, in) music. 1. _____
2. Sergeant Samson died (from, of) wounds received in battle. 2. _____
3. I'm very concerned (about, with) Bill's long absence. 3. _____
4. Your blue shirt clashes (against, with) your brown suit. 4. _____
5. Fortune smiled (at, on) the good knight. 5. _____
6. Don't bother me (by, with) your petty problems. 6. _____
7. His last remark bears (upon, with) what you said previously. 7. _____
8. Water consists (in, of) hydrogen and oxygen. 8. _____
9. I felt a cold metal object pressed (against, towards) my neck. 9. _____
10. You made the decision: you'll have to abide (by, with) it. 10. _____
11. The place is alive (to, with) rats. 11. _____
12. We were all very angry (at, with) the cause of the delay. 12. _____
13. John seemed most disinterested (by, in) what was happening. 13. _____
14. The youth was drunk (on, with) two glasses of wine. 14. _____
15. The man got up and shouted that he was the equal (of, to) any boxer at the fair. 15. _____
16. This knife is only good (at, for) cutting thin pieces of wood. 16. _____
17. I was ignorant (in, of) John's marriage to Wendy. 17. _____
18. Walking across the rope bridge was certainly a test (for, of) courage. 18. _____
19. We all felt a lot of pity (for, on) the beggar. 19. _____
20. I am getting tired (of, with) your excuses. 20. _____

Exercise 3

Verbs, nouns, and adjectives followed by prepositions

Join each phrase on the left with the most appropriate phrase on the right so as to form correct sentences. Write the number of the appropriate left-hand column in each space on the right. (The first one is done for you.)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. He did not convince me | on the organisation. | _____ |
| 2. They were caught plotting | from danger. | _____ |
| 2 3. I knew that Mr Day was spying | in the club's activities. | _____ |

4. The prisoner pleaded	over the other club members.	_____
5. Betty does not want to participate	under a false impression.	_____
6. He sheltered his family	against the government.	_____
7. I was labouring	of the theft.	_____
8. Mr Snob is always lording it	for mercy.	_____
9. The bank credited the sum	by his argument.	_____ 1 _____
10. No one suspected the servant	to my account.	_____
11. Only John had access	of old war diaries.	_____
12. The workers went on strike	against the reduction of wages.	_____
13. Ted is obsessed	over the class.	_____
14. All the workers were annoyed	to the secret documents.	_____
15. Dr Holt is making a study	on all his teachers.	_____
16. Mr Thompson kept aloof	with the thought of failing.	_____
17. There was great protest	between the two partners.	_____
18. Jones made a good impression	for higher wages.	_____
19. Mr Hugh had little control	at the firm's decision.	_____
20. A bitter quarrel took place	from his colleagues.	_____

Exercise 4

Missing preposition + noun + missing preposition

Supply the correct prepositions in the following prepositional phrases. The noun which forms part of the phrase is printed in *italics*.

- Mr Newman went on an excursion _____ *search* _____ fossils.
- A new doctor was sent to the village _____ *place* _____ the one who had retired.
- _____ *the course* _____ the journey, several of the party became quite ill.
- Wilfred volunteered for extra work _____ *an eye* _____ increasing his chances of promotion.
- The little boy heard a faint noise _____ *answer* _____ his call for help.
- The police wished to interview the man _____ *connection* _____ the series of robberies.
- I was _____ *the point* _____ leaving when the grocer called.
- Old Mr Smith received a silver cigarette case _____ *acknowledgement* _____ the many years he had faithfully served the company.
- The management received a great deal of blame _____ *respect* _____ the faulty articles.

10. _____ *the light* _____ recent investigations we now know that an earlier civilisation existed in Peru.
11. Shakespeare wrote many of his plays _____ *the reign* _____ Queen Elizabeth the First.
12. The poor child is _____ *want* _____ proper care.
13. Do not quarrel over this matter _____ *the sake* _____ a few dollars.
14. I attended the conference _____ *spite* _____ my illness.
15. The soldier remained fearless _____ *the face* _____ the enemy attack.
16. One needs a friend _____ *time* _____ trouble.
17. Mr Green is _____ *no mood* _____ practical jokes at such a busy time.
18. The engineer remained _____ *doubt* _____ the safety of the bridge even after several trains had passed over it.
19. The bright blue wall stands out _____ *contrast* _____ the dark surroundings.
20. The famous actor was excellent _____ *the role* _____ the father in the film.

Exercise 5

Replacement: prepositional phrases

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the prepositional phrase in *italics* in each of the sentences by one of the following groups of words.

because of
engaged on
through lack of
in disagreement with
friendly with

in view of the possibility of
under threat of
on the grounds of
in the best part of
to the advantage of

1. Many of the shipwrecked sailors died *for want of* fresh water.

1. _____

2. The young poet is now *at work on* a long ode.

2. _____

3. The exiled ruler was prevented from returning to his country *on pain of* instant death.

3. _____

4. The picnic was cancelled *on account of* the bad weather.

4. _____

5. Joan and Sally are both *on good terms* with their employer.

5. _____

6. Paul was *in the prime of* his life when he caught the terrible disease.

6. _____

7. Tommy Stout is not eligible, *by virtue of* being too young.

7. _____

8. It is *in the interests of* the nation that the standard of living be raised.

8. _____

9. The statesmen seem to be *at variance with* the President over the matter of a tax increase.

9. _____

10. He visited Singapore *on the chance of* seeing his old uncle once again.

10. _____

Exercise 6

Prepositional phrases

An equivalent for each phrase in Section A can be found in Section B. Write in the space after each phrase in A the appropriate equivalent.

A	B
in the balance	_____ confidentially
at rest	_____ contrary to orders
on a fool's errand	_____ at one's best
in a way	_____ quickly
in bad taste	_____ with great success
for effect	_____ everything considered
on the offensive	_____ engaged on a futile task
out of line	_____ in every detail
down to earth	_____ unimportant
to the letter	_____ offensive
on form	_____ in some respects

at the double	_____	to create a good impression
of little moment	_____	with nothing to do
for all that	_____	attacking
on the cards	_____	undecided
in other words	_____	dead
between ourselves	_____	regardless of difficulties
at a loose end	_____	putting it simply
at any cost	_____	likely
with flying colours	_____	matter-of-fact

Exercise 7

Adverbial particles

Many adverbial particles function in a similar way to ordinary adverbs while certain others provide stress, emphasis or a sense of completion. In most cases in the passage below both the verb and particle have their usual straightforward meaning. Fill in each space with the correct particle.

When I came _____, I saw a few men loitering _____ inside the hall. Panic gripped me, and I turned _____ and hurried _____. As I ran _____ to the ground floor, I felt certain that the meeting would not start for some time. However, when I went _____ I saw that the snow had now almost melted _____ and that more people would be able to come. I still had not figured _____ what to do, so I decided to while _____ the next hour. I knew that the committee could muddle _____ without me, so I buttoned _____ my coat and walked _____.

The next moment I tripped _____ over a small stone and fell _____ on a patch of ice. When I picked myself _____, I noticed that a few small children were standing _____, looking me _____ with considerable interest. I brushed _____ my hair, which had fallen over my forehead, and then I handed _____ some sweets, telling the children to run _____ and leave me alone. I quickly thought my position _____: I had no desire to be seen while the meeting was taking place. I put _____ a pair of dark glasses and decided to drop _____ to see my old uncle, who lived near by.

My uncle was in the garage washing his car _____ when I strolled _____. He held
6 _____ his hand to greet me, but something made him suddenly cry _____.

'Look _____,' he said quickly. 'Is that your friend?'

I turned and saw Mr Hoggs limping towards me: his left foot turned _____ as he walked.

I jumped aside and hid behind the car. But it was too late. He had seen me.

'Bill,' he called _____. 'Come _____ or you'll be late for the big meeting.'

He knew that I was suffering from an attack of nervousness.

'They won't eat you,' he shouted, wrinkling _____ his nose at the smell of the petrol in the garage.

'Hundreds of people will be disappointed if you don't come,' he pointed _____. 'The hall is crowded _____: it's been booked _____ for months. Besides, we've already handed _____ copies of your speech to the press.'

He rambled _____ and eventually began to calm me _____. I could feel my nervousness slowly passing _____ now.

'I have a car near by,' Hoggs said.

My uncle, who had been looking _____ with mixed feelings, accompanied us to the car.

Hoggs got _____ behind the wheel.

'Move _____,' I said. 'I'll drive and then we'll make sure of arriving on time.'

I waved good-bye to my uncle as we drove _____. The traffic lights a few yards ahead were at amber, but I drove _____ without slowing _____.

In ten minutes we were outside the hall. As soon as we entered, everyone stood _____ and began to clap. I smiled as I walked _____ on my way to the platform. Hoggs helped me _____ with my hat and coat. I waited until the clapping had died _____ before I started. At first I simply read _____ my speech, but later, as I warmed _____, I threw _____ notes and spoke from my heart.

Exercise 8

Replacement: phrasal verbs

Rewrite each sentence, replacing the words in *italics* in each sentence by the appropriate phrasal verb from the list below. Put the verb in its correct form and make any changes in word order which are necessary.

egg on
come in for
do away with
hold over
make it up

run down
ring off
pile it on
go down with
cut out for

get on to
rattle off
worm out
turn to
straighten out

1. The new principal *abolished* the custom of wearing a gown for teaching.

1. _____

2. I could tell that the stranger was *exaggerating* when he described the crash.

2. _____

3. Have Jack and Betty *settled their quarrel* yet?

3. _____

4. She *put down the telephone* before I had finished making my excuse.

4. _____

5. I never *understood* what he was trying to tell me.

5. _____

6. Who *encouraged* you to steal this watch?

6. _____

7. The traitor *quickly recited* all the names of the secret agents.

7. _____

8. Tom won't be coming: he's *ill with* food-poisoning.

8. _____

9. I don't think he *has the necessary qualities to be* a doctor.

9. _____

10. The designer *began working* at once and produced several drawings.

10. _____

11. The last three items on the agenda will be *postponed* until the next meeting.

11. _____

12. Eventually we *clarified* the misunderstanding and became good friends again.

12. _____

13. The lorry driver *received* a lot of the blame for the accident.

13. _____

14. She managed to *find out* the secret.

14. _____

15. The police finally *overtook and captured* the criminals as they were about to board the ship.

15. _____

Exercise 9

Tell

Supply the correct preposition after *tell* in each space in the following passage.

Jack could tell _____ the old man's appearance that he had once been very rich. The old man began to tell Jack _____ his life: how he had worked very hard as a lawyer and how the pressure of work had begun to tell _____ him.

Then Jack caught sight of a policeman approaching.

'Please don't tell _____ me,' the frightened old man whispered.

Now answer the following questions about the passage. Do not use the word *tell* in any of your answers.

1. What could Jack recognise from the old man's appearance?

1. _____

2. What did the pressure of work do to the old man?

2. _____

3. What did he whisper when the policeman approached?

3. _____

Exercise 10

Talk

Supply the correct particle or preposition after *talk* in each space in the following passage. (Note that *out of* has been regarded as being equivalent to a single preposition and only one space has been allocated for it.)

Joan never stopped talking _____ Fred. She would talk _____ for hours if she could find anyone to listen to her. One day I began to talk the whole matter _____ with her. First, 9

I tried to talk her _____ going to the cinema with Fred, but it was useless: she continued to go with him. I even argued with her, but she talked me _____. She even talked _____ her mother when she came, and I realised that I had better have a talk _____ her father.

'I don't wish to talk you _____ punishing Joan,' I said when I began.

'I shan't dream of punishing her,' Mr Thomas replied, 'but I shall certainly talk _____ her.'

Now answer the following questions about the passage. Do not use the word *talk* in any of your answers.

1. Who used to talk incessantly about Fred?

1. _____

2. What did the writer discuss?

2. _____

3. What did the writer try to do?

3. _____

4. What happened when he argued with Joan?

4. _____

5. What did the writer not wish to do?

5. _____

6. Did Mr Thomas intend to scold Joan?

6. _____

Exercise 11

Speak

Supply the most appropriate particle or preposition after *speak* in each space in the following passage. Do not use the same word more than once.

Jane and Mary began to speak _____ their schooldays. Jane remembered the time that she had been asked to speak _____ co-education in one of the school debates. She spoke _____ the motion and Mary spoke _____ it. Jane was doing very well when she suddenly realised that she was speaking _____ a large audience. Then she became quite nervous and began to mumble.

10 'Speak _____ !' the students at the back shouted.

Exercise 12

Verbs followed by prepositions

Insert the appropriate preposition in each space in the following sentences.

1. The pilot did not allow sufficiently _____ the strong wind and missed the runway.
2. 'Persevere _____ your studies: you'll never regret it,' the old man advised me.
3. David has coerced me _____ coming along on the trip.
4. Did you manage to persuade him _____ the great danger of remaining in the country?
5. The mob incited the two youths _____ action.
6. Before I sail with you to Singapore, I must first familiarise myself _____ a little navigation.
7. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman presided _____ the meeting.
8. Who was eventually selected _____ the job?
9. She reacted badly _____ the news of her failure.
10. He's always harping _____ the subject of his promotion.
11. The bitter dispute grew _____ a slight misunderstanding.
12. Although she was very angry, she smiled while the camera was focussed _____ her.
13. The bandit leader succeeded _____ extracting the information _____ the government official.
14. The battle ended _____ defeat for the rebel forces.
15. Please enlighten me _____ John's whereabouts: I have not seen him for over a month.
16. We shouted _____ joy when the rescue team appeared at the top of the cliff.
17. Dick has vouched _____ you: he says he has known you for five years.
18. Several members abstained _____ voting _____ the controversial issue.
19. The new boy refused to conform _____ the old school custom of wearing a green blazer.
20. 'You must do whatever is required _____ you,' Sergeant Black told the soldiers.
21. 'How many boys want to try _____ the scholarship?' Dr Brain asked.
22. We have finally triumphed _____ our enemies.
23. I couldn't possibly eat any more: this will suffice _____ me.
24. George posed _____ a photograph.
25. When we reached home, we joked _____ one another _____ the delay.
26. A week later we were fined _____ obstructing the traffic.
27. You must abide _____ your promise.
28. She jumped _____ the opportunity of coming with us.

29. I am studying _____ a diploma _____ Professor Head.

30. The town was abandoned _____ the enemy.

Exercise 13

Replacement: verbs followed by prepositions

Replace the words in brackets in each sentence by one of the following prepositional verbs, using the appropriate form of the verb.

hear of	stick by	face on to
clash with	care for	tumble to
put upon	break with	scrape through
feel for	watch over	rest with
come under	sit on	reckon on

1. I could see that he hadn't _____ (made allowances for) our accompanying him.
2. Our house _____ (is opposite) the park.
3. David _____ (was loyal to) me in my adversity.
4. 'The book on pottery _____ (is classified as) Fine Arts,' said the librarian.
5. I _____ (sympathised with) Jones: he had obviously been humiliated.
6. Two soldiers _____ (guarded) the strange visitor.
7. Mrs Brown would not _____ (consent to) her son taking part in such a long journey.
8. Your little girl is becoming very rude: you ought to _____ (scold) her.
9. The matter now _____ (is in the hands of) the committee.
10. People tended to _____ (impose on) Miss Day.
11. You have _____ (just managed to pass) your history examination.
12. Who _____ (nursed) the old man during his long illness?
13. At first I did not _____ (realise) the trick.
14. Mrs Brown's yellow hat _____ (did not match) her pink dress.
15. I have already _____ (severed connections with) the old students' association.

Exercise 14

Nouns and adjectives followed by prepositions

Insert the appropriate preposition into each space in the following sentences.

- 12 1. Timson is celebrated _____ his watercolours of mountain scenes.