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Grammar Reference

Verb + preposition

Some verbs are usually followed by prepositions. These are called dependent prepositions, and they are followed by a noun, a pronoun, or a gerund.

Example:

She's waiting for a train.

“For” is the dependent preposition for “wait”.

Note: We can use other prepositions with “wait”, but “for” is the dependent preposition.

Example:

He waited at the bus stop.

Here are some of the verbs used with “for”:

He **apologized for** not coming to the meeting. (You can also “apologize to someone”)

I **applied for** the scholarship, but I didn't get it.

How do you **ask for** tea in Khmer?

She spent many years **caring for** her aged grandparents.

I can't go out tonight because I have to **prepare for** my final exam tomorrow.

Here are some of the verbs used with “from”

This spray can **protect you from** insects.

Did he **recover from** his sickness?

Yesterday she **saved someone from** getting in an accident.

He **suffered from** dengue fever.

Here are some of the verbs used with “in”

They don't **believe in** God.

She **specialized in** web programming.

If he wants to **succeed in** life, he has to work harder.

Here are some of the verbs used with “of”

The teacher doesn't **approve of** the language he used in class.

The cat **died of** a rare disease.

This soap **smells of** roses. (**smells like** is usually used in the U.S.)

Here are some of the verbs used with “on”

The anime is **based on** Japanese manga.

I can't **concentrate on** my work because there are loud noises outside.

The team **relied on** her to win the trophy.

They don't usually **agree on** everything, but they are still a couple.

Here are some of the verbs used with “to”.

Can you **introduce him to** me?

Please **refer to** the book for more details.

The judge didn't **respond to** my complaint.

Here are some of the verbs used with “with”

He **agreed with** everything she said.

My assistant will **provide you with** more information if you need it.

Remember: There are many more verbs used with dependent prepositions. You should make a note when you encounter them. This is the list of the most common verbs used with dependent prepositions.

agree with	dream of	talk to
arrive at	listen to	get to
ask for	smile at	apply for
believe in	wait for	pay for
belong to	think about	look at
depend on	think of	happen to
dream about	talk about	

Verbs with two objects

Some verbs have two objects: an indirect object and a direct object.

Example:

Subject	verb	indirect object	direct object
My wife	sent	me	an email.
He	brought	his father	some coffee.
She	cooked	all her friends	a delicious dinner.
Form: Subject + verb + indirect object + direct object + ...			

Prepositions “to” or “for” can be used with an indirect object.

Example:

Subject	verb	direct object	prepositional phrase
My wife	sent	an email	to me.
He	brought	some coffee	for his father.
She	cooked	a delicious dinner	for all her friends.
Form Subject + verb + direct object + prepositional phrase (indirect object)			

Here is the list of common verbs used with “for” and indirect objects

buy	keep	save
book	bring	find
get	make	
cook	pour	
Example: They booked a table for her at the restaurant. We made toys for all the children.		

Here is the list of common verbs used with “to” and indirect objects

give	post	show
lend	read	promise
offer	sell	tell
pass	send	

Example:

He gave his program to the boss.

We sent Christmas cards to all our friends.

Note: If the indirect object is a long phrase, we normally use “to” or “for”.

Example: He showed his identification card to *the policeman standing by the door*.

If the indirect object is a pronoun, we normally don't use the prepositions.

Example: I poured **him** another drink.