

3. PREPOSITION

Prepositions are function words which introduce prepositional phrases. Many prepositions in English correspond to case inflections in other languages including Lithuanian. They are used to show relations between words in a sentence.

Most common prepositions in English are short, invariable forms: *about, after, around, as, at, by, down, for, from, in, into, like, of, off, on, since, than, to, towards, with, without, etc.*

e.g. *The victim was killed **by** a bullet to the head **with** a gun. I want an opener that can be used **for** opening bottles. It happened **at** five o'clock **on** Monday morning **in** December.*

3.1 FREE and BOUND PREPOSITIONS

An important distinction can be drawn between **free** and **bound** prepositions. Free prepositions have an independent meaning, and their choice does not depend upon any specific words in the context (e.g. *A sunrise appeared **on** the wall*). In contrast, bound prepositions often have little independent meaning, and the choice of the preposition depends upon some other word, often the preceding verb (e.g. *The calculations generally rely **on** an after-tax rate of return*).

Although some prepositions can be both free and bound, (as preposition “on” in the above examples) many prepositions are always, or almost always, free: *above, across, against, along, among(st), before, behind, below, beside, besides, between, beyond, considering, despite, during, following, inside, like, near, opposite, outside, past, regarding, since, through, throughout, till, toward(s), under, unlike, until, within, without.*

3.2 COMPLEX PREPOSITIONS

Complex prepositions are multi-word sequences which function semantically and syntactically as single prepositions, i.e. their meaning cannot be derived from the meaning of the parts.

3.3 TWO-WORD COMPLEX PREPOSITIONS

Two-word complex prepositions normally end with a simple preposition:

ending in	Examples
<i>as</i>	<i>such as</i>
<i>for</i>	<i>as for, except for</i>
<i>from</i>	<i>apart from</i>
<i>of</i>	<i>because of, devoid of, exclusive of, instead of, irrespective of, regardless of</i>
<i>on</i>	<i>depending on</i>
<i>to</i>	<i>according to, contrary to, due to, owing to, prior to, subsequent to, thanks to</i>
<i>with</i>	<i>together with</i>

TWO-WORD PREPOSITION	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLE
according to	1 pasak kieno nors nuomonės	According to these numbers the company is doing well.
apart from*	2 remiantis kuo be ko, išskyrus	We will be paid according to the job we do. Everyone was there apart from the doctor.
as for	kas dėl	As for the festival itself, it was a joyful event.
because of	dėl	Because of the Asian crisis, the profits fell.
contrary to	priešingai, prieš	The introduction of this tax would be contrary to our policy.
depending on	atsižvelgiant į, pagal	Prices vary depending on the area you choose.
devoid of	neturintis, be	Rob's face was devoid of any warmth.
due to**	dėl, ryšium su	His absence was due to the storm.
except for*	išskyrus, jeigu ne	Except for her lack of experience she would be ideal for the job.
exclusive of	išskyrus, be	The cost is \$20 exclusive of shipping.
instead of	vietoj (ko), užuot	You can recharge it instead of throwing it away.
irrespective of	nepriklausomai nuo, neatsižvelgiant į	We consider all qualified applicants, irrespective of age or sex.
owing to**	dėl	Our flight was delayed owing to the bad weather.
prior to	pirma, prieš, anksčiau	The question had been asked prior to my arrival.
regardless of	nepaisant	We will continue the race regardless of the weather.
subsequent to	(einantis) po	Reed was disqualified subsequent to failing a drugs test.
such as	toks kaip	Large projects such as this one often take years to develop.
thanks to	dėka	Thanks to his treatment, her condition has improved.
together with	drauge/kartu su	Mix the flour together with the milk.

* *apart from* indicates that you are aware of one aspect of the situation, but that you are going to focus on another aspect, e.g. *There was always something to look forward to, apart from Rachel's visits.*

* *except for* introduces the only thing or person that prevents a statement from being completely true, e.g. *Everyone was late, except for Richard.*

** *due to* and *owing to* are similar in meaning, whereas *due to* is mostly used after verb *to be*, and *owing to* more often occurs in writing, e.g. *The company's financial losses were due to poor management. Owing to the rising of cost of fuel, more people are using public transport.* [for more about differences in usage – refer to part 1. Conjunctions. Linking words/phrases]

3.4 THREE-WORD PREPOSITIONS

Three-word prepositions usually or most commonly consist of a simple preposition + noun + another simple preposition:

ending in	Examples
<i>As</i>	<i>as far as, as well as</i>
<i>for</i>	<i>in exchange for, in return for</i>
<i>from</i>	<i>as distinct from</i>
<i>of</i>	<i>by means of, in case of, in charge of, in favour of, in need of, in search of, in spite of, in terms of</i>
<i>to</i>	<i>as opposed to, in addition to, in contrast to, with regard to, with reference to, with respect to</i>
<i>with</i>	<i>in accordance with, in comparison with, in compliance with, in conformity with</i>

THREE-WORD PREPOSITION	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLE
as far as	kiek; kas dėl	He isn't coming home as far as I know.
as well as	taip pat; ir...,ir	I want to visit Andrew as well as Martin.
in exchange for	mainais (į)	The situation would be lifted in exchange for renewed cooperation.
in return for	atsilyginant, mainais	What can we do in return for your kindness?
as distinct from	skirtingai nuo..., kitaip negu...	The company, as distinct from its shareholders, should be liable for any debts.
by means of	pasinaudojant kuo	She tried to explain by means of sign language.
in case of	... atveju (aiškinant priežastį)	In case of bad weather, the ceremony will be held indoors.

in charge of	būti atsakingam, vadovauti	John is in charge of the marketing department.
in favour of	už ką, kieno vardu	Those in favour of the motion, please raise your hands.
in need of	reikėti (ko)	My car is in need of repair.
in search of	ieškoti (ko)	Many people had left their homes to go in search of food.
in spite of	nepaisant ko	She started to laugh, in spite of herself.
in terms of	kaip; ... kalba	Consider it in terms of an investment.
as opposed to	o ne (lyginant)	The cost is \$3 million, as opposed to the \$2 million charged by their competitors.
in addition to	be to, (ir) dar	In addition to his flat in London, he has a villa in Italy.
in contrast to	priešingai kam	In contrast to his predecessor, Bush has little appetite for foreign travel.
with regard to	(kieno, ko) at- žvilgiu	I am writing to you with regard to your letter of March 15.
with reference to	ofic. ryšium su, dėl (ypač laiškuose)	I am writing with reference to your article on salaries for scientists.
with respect to*	ofic. dėl	The two groups are very similar with respect to age.
in accordance with	pagal, remiantis kuo	In accordance with the terms of the contract the number should be lower.
in comparison with	palyginti su	In comparison with the male, the female is stronger and more energetic.
in compliance with	atsižvelgiant į (taisykles, reikalavimus ir pan.)	All building work must be carried out in compliance with safety regulations.
in conformity with	ofic. remiantis kuo, pagal	The prime minister is, in conformity with the constitution, chosen by the president.

* *with respect to* (in Br E *in respect of*) is formally used to say what something relates to, e.g. *Parents often have little choice with respect to the way their child is medically treated.*

3.5 LIST of PREPOSITIONS

When writing essays or reports students might be faced with several challenges: to know (a) whether in any construction a preposition is required or not, and (b) which preposition to use when one is required. It is always necessary to be very careful as there are not many rules to help choose correctly. Almost every expression has to be checked in the dictionary or learnt separately. Most of the prepositions have several different functions and at the same time, different prepositions can have very similar uses (e.g. It occurred **in** the morning. They arrived **on** Monday morning. The condition worsened **at** night). Many nouns, verbs and adjectives are used with particular prepositions (e.g. arrive **at**, angry **with**, **on** a bus).

The list below includes verbs, nouns, and adjectives with prepositions as well as prepositional and phrasal verbs most frequently used in academic prose.

VERB+PREP	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLE
abound in acquaint sb with sth adapt to apologize for apply to sb/ for sth combine with compare sth to/with comply with derive from focus (up) on object to protect from result from succeed in supply with	gausu ko supažindinti, infor- muoti pri(si)taikyti prie atsiprašyti dėl kreiptis į... dėl jungti su lyginti skirtumus paklusti/sutikti su (taisyklėm) kilti/kildinti iš sutelkti dėmesį į ką prieštarauti kam saugoti nuo ko būti pasekme pasisiekti, pavykti aprūpinti, suteikti	The coast here abounds in rare plants. The Museum also offers workshops to acquaint children with the world of art. Many software companies have adapted programs to the new operating system. He apologized publicly for his mistake. We've applied to a charitable organization for a grant for the project. The writer combined wit with cynicism. This road is quite busy compared to/with ours. He reluctantly complied with their rules. The English word 'olive' derives from Latin. They will focus upon three main points. He objects to the label 'magician'. Will this type of block protect me from UV light? His illness resulted from eating contaminated food. Police finally succeeded in solving the mystery. At the beginning of the term, students are supplied with a list of books.
ADJECTIVE +PREP.	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLE
consistent with dependent on/upon devoid of different from good/bad at independent of interested in limited to responsible for rich in short of similar to	sutampantis su priklausantis nuo neturintis, be skirtingas gabus/negabus nepriklausomas nuo susidomėjęs ribotas atsakingas už turingas, turįs ko nepakankamas panašus, beveik toks pat	This proposal is not consistent with our aims. They hate being dependent on their parents. He is devoid of human feelings. Emily is very different from her sister. He is good/bad at running. India became independent of Britain in 1947. Are you interested in their opinion? Seating is limited to 500. Who is responsible for this terrible mess? Sardines are rich in oil. I'm short of money this week. My opinion is very similar to hers.

PREP. + NOUN	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLE
in my opinion in detail to my mind on time in time in turn in the end at the end of sth in the beginning at the beginning of ... for + time during + time	mano nuomone išsamiai mano manymu laiku, punktualiai laiku, suspėti Iš eilės, paeiliui galiausiai, galų gale kieno pabaigoje iš pradžių, pradžioje kieno pradžioje žymint atstumą/laiką per, metu	In my opinion you are wrong. We had a chance to discuss the matter in detail . They to my mind look all wrong. Why is that the trains never run on time ? I got home just in time – it's starting to rain. Each of us collects the mail in turn . He tried several times to pass the exam, and in the end he succeeded. At the end of the war the government made a resolute decision. I enjoyed my job in the beginning but not now. Notes on how to use this dictionary can be found at the beginning of the book. He studied for a year and during that year he worked in a laboratory attempting to discover a new remedy to fight this fatal disease.
NOUN + PREP.	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLE
advantage/ disadvantage of attitude to cause of demand for impact on increase in / decrease in influence on reason for solution to	pranašumas/ trūkumas nuostata; požiūris į kieno priežastis (pa)reikalavimas poveikis, įtaka augimas, (pa)didinimas/ (su)mažėjimas įtaka; poveikis motyvas; paaiškinimas atsakymas; sprendimas	The equipment has the additional advantage/ disadvantage of being easy/heavy to carry. People here have a more relaxed attitude to their work. An essay on the causes of the First WW. She repeated her demand for a review of her report. Internet shopping has begun to have a serious impact on the traditional shopping. There has been a significant increase in the number of young people who smoke. His years in Hollywood were a very bad influence on his films. The police asked her the reason for her visit. UN leaders are working hard to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.
PREPOSITIONAL VERB	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLE
account for add to allow for arrive at be aimed at be associated with be based on belong to be charged with be composed of	paaiškinti pri(si)dėti numatyti, atsižvelgti prieiti išvados nukreipti, skirti (kam) sieti(s), asocijuoti(s) pagrįsti priklausyti būti apkaltintam (kuo) susidaryti, susidėti	Can you account for your absence last Friday? Have you anything to add to your earlier statement? The survey does not allow for the fact that some students are attending part-time. We all argued about it for hours and eventually arrived at (= reached) a decision. The regulations are aimed at the prevention of accidents at work. His social problems were associated with heavy drinking. The film is based on a story by T. Mann. This vegetable belongs to the potato family. She's been charged with murder. Muscle is composed of two different types

<p>be defined as be derived from be divided into be included in</p> <p>be involved in be known as</p> <p>be made of be regarded as</p> <p>be related to</p> <p>be seen as come from consist of contribute to deal with depend on/upon differ from lead to occur in refer to</p> <p>result in</p>	<p>nubrėžti, nustatyti kilti, kildinti; išvesti būti padalintam įtraukti, įskaityti</p> <p>įsitraukti būti žinomam kaip</p> <p>būti pagamintam iš laikyti (kuo)</p> <p>sieti(s)</p> <p>traktuoti, matyti kaip kilti, būti kilusiam susidaryti/susidėti iš prisidėti, padėti nagrinėti, spręsti ką priklausyti nuo skirtis nuo būti rezultatu pasitaikyti 1 remtis</p> <p>2 nukreipti baigtis kuo/ būti rezultatu</p>	<p>of protein. This storm is defined as a hurricane. These products are derived from animals. This sum is divided into 3 equal parts. His work was included in an exhibition of young painters. They were involved in the negotiations. Diana Spencer became known as Princess Di. The top of the table is made of glass. Kubrick was regarded as one of the most influential post-war film directors. In academic writing you often need to express how one thing is related to another. This was seen as an attempt to win. The serum comes from a tropical plant. The team consists of four Europeans. Various factors contributed to his downfall. The book deals with the troubles in Ireland. The country depends heavily on foreign aid. Your taste in music differs from hers. Years of research have led to a new result. This small tree also occurs in central India. The scientist referred to the discovery as the greatest achievement. The teacher referred me to several articles. The accident resulted in the death of a passenger.</p>
PHRASAL VERB	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLE
<p>carry out</p> <p>dispose of fill in find out go on</p> <p>invest in make up</p> <p>point out</p> <p>relate to</p> <p>rely on/upon stem from take on</p> <p>take up</p> <p>turn out</p>	<p>atlikti, įvykdyti (bandymus ir pan.) atsikratyti, išspręsti įrašyti, užpildyti sužinoti, išsiaiškinti tęsti, eiti/daryti toliau</p> <p>investuoti į ką sudaryti</p> <p>nurodyti, atkreipti dėmesį (su)sieti su kuo</p> <p>pasikliauti kuo kilti iš/dėl (i)gauti (savybę, naują reikšmę ir pan.) užimti (vietą, poziciją); užpildyti pasirodyti, paaiškėti</p>	<p>An investigation is being carried out by the governor. Nuclear waste is disposed of under the sea. Fill in the missing words. We may never find out the truth about it. The meeting went on a lot longer than we expected. Schools have invested in CD-ROM players. Could you make up a list of all the things we need? Thank you for pointing that out. We need to see the figures relating to the last six months. These proposals relate to agricultural land. You can't rely on the weather. Her problems stem from her childhood. Our website is taking on a new look. These files take up a lot of disk space. It all turned out to be a mistake.</p>