

3.1 EXERCISES. PREPOSITION

Exercise 1. Choose the correct preposition from the list below using some of them several times.

at, from, in, of, on, to, with

Example: She's added a Picasso to her collection.

- 1 Most students have little difficulty adapting ____ college life.
- 2 These ads are specifically aimed ____ young people.
- 3 The markets abound ____ imported goods.
- 4 You should be apologizing ____ your customers for wasting their money.
- 5 Today we are going to focus ____ the question of homeless people.
- 6 The report charges cars ____ being responsible for air pollution.
- 7 His breakfast consists ____ dry bread and a cup of tea.
- 8 English differs ____ Spanish in that it is not pronounced as it is written.
- 9 I think it's time I invested ____ a new computer.
- 10 The doctor referred me ____ a skin specialist.

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences using the correct preposition.

Example: Prices are based on two people sharing a room.

- 1 She referred ____ the subject several times during her speech.
- 2 He began investing ____ the stock market at an early age.
- 3 The government must now deal ____ the problem of high unemployment.
- 4 Please fill ____ your name and address in the space provided.
- 5 The two studies arrive ____ very different conclusions.
- 6 This year's team consisted ____ college players.
- 7 Sometimes you have to rely ____ your own judgment.
- 8 Their future depends ____ how well they do in these exams.
- 9 Please dispose ____ your litter thoughtfully.
- 10 A number of factors account ____ the differences between the two scores.

Exercise 3. Choose the correct preposition.

Example: A sudden change in temperature will result *with/in* rain.

- 1 His social problems were associated *with/to* heavy drinking.
- 2 The hat only partially protected his face *against/from* the sun.
- 3 He was subjected *to/for* torture.
- 4 Profits are good compared *for/with* last year.
- 5 Their fear derives *of/from* a belief that these people have supernatural powers.
- 6 I spent the morning dealing *with/in* my emails.
- 7 This will lead *to/on* trouble in the future.
- 8 Please refer *to/for* our catalogue.
- 9 We will focus *at/upon* three main topics.
- 10 China and India formally objected *against/to* the peace plan.

Exercise 4. Find the word which should not be in the sentence.

Example: You should discuss in this problem with your doctor.

ex: in

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1 We can rely on about these data. | 1 |
| 2 The minerals in water combine with in soap to form a scum. | 2 |
| 3 The prosecution's case is based on in evidence from the gang. | 3 |
| 4 The story concerns with a man who was a friend of mine. | 4 |
| 5 We are meeting to discuss about this matter next week. | 5 |
| 6 The arrests resulted in from an anonymous telephone call. | 6 |
| 7 They've added for two major companies to their impressive list of clients. | 7 |
| 8 I have applied to for a scholarship. | 8 |
| 9 The scandal certainly contributed about to their defeat at the last election. | 9 |
| 10 The police charged in him with murder. | 10 |

Exercise 5. Complete sentences with the correct preposition from the list below. You may use some of these several times.

at, for, in on, to, with

Example: I apologize for taking so long to reply.

- 1 All train times are subject ____ change in bad weather conditions.
- 2 You are legally obliged to comply fully ____ any investigations.
- 3 The regulations are aimed ____ the prevention of accidents at work.
- 4 You have to apply ____ the passport office ____ a visa.
- 5 How did they arrive ____ that figure?
- 6 The film is based ____ a true story.
- 7 Compared ____ some of the things she's said, this was polite.
- 8 The two animals come from the same family but differ ____ body shape.
- 9 I spent over two hours filling ____ application form.
- 10 This process of negotiation leads ____ a peaceful settlement.
- 11 We need to see the figures relating ____ the last six months.
- 12 Our problems stem from our failure to deal ____ the problem when it first arose.

Exercise 6. Identify the correct answer.

Example: E-mail uses two kinds of mail servers: an SMPT server, which deals ... outgoing e-mail and a POP3 server, which deals ... incoming e-mail.

a) in b) about **c) with**

- 1 We finally succeeded ...getting Marjorie up the stairs.
a) on b) about c) in
- 2 Police revealed that he had supplied terrorist organizations ... weapons.
a) with b) of c) in
- 3 The fire was due ... a faulty wire in a plug.
a) in b) at c) from
- 4 This house is totally devoid ... furniture.
a) of b) at c) to
- 5 The baby is awake thanks ... our shouting.
a) for b) to c) at
- 6 A lot of her unhappiness is due ... boredom.
a) for b) to c) at
- 7 The film was completely devoid ... interest.
a) for b) of c) to
- 8 Today we are going to focus ... the question of homeless people.
a) for b) of c) on
- 9 Our problems stem from our failure to deal with the problem when it first arose.
a) on b) with c) to

Exercise 7. Six of these sentences contain mistakes with prepositions in *italics*. Identify the correct sentences, then find and correct the mistakes.

Example: The house *was* undamaged in the floods, *except* the carpets.
... *except for*...

- 1 *In spite of* feeling tired we decided to go out.
- 2 Large and important projects *such as* this one often take years to develop.
- 3 I need to go to the bookshop *as well* the bank.
- 4 Upon arrival, the crew discover that all of the inhabitants have been killed *except* one couple.
- 5 He isn't coming today *as* I know.
- 6 She can come whenever she likes *as far* I am concerned.
- 7 You can have herbal tea *instead of* coffee, if you want.
- 8 There's been no change, *as far as* I can tell.
- 9 She was, *in spite* fame and fortune, basically an unhappy woman.
- 10 The concert has been cancelled *owing to* lack of support.

Exercise 8. Identify the correct sentences, find and correct the mistakes with prepositions in *italics*.

Example: Tickets will cost only \$5 *instead* the usual \$6.50.
... *instead of*...

- 1 We should try to play the game *according to* the rules.
- 2 *According* Freud, our dreams represent our hidden desires.
- 3 He almost died *due to* lack of oxygen.
- 4 You are all put in different groups *according* your ability.
- 5 Their failure was *due to* a lack of care and attention.
- 6 The amount of tax people pay varies *according to* where they live.
- 7 He retired early, partly *because* ill health.
- 8 *Apart from* the salary, it's not a bad job.
- 9 *As for* me, I got used to the idea.
- 10 *Apart from* you and me, I don't think there was anyone else under 30 there.

Exercise 9. *Identify the correct sentences, find and correct the mistakes with prepositions in italics.*

Example: According newspaper reports, fighting has broken out in the northern provinces. ... *according to*...

- 1 From each *according* his abilities, to each *according* his needs.
- 2 Everything was wonderful *except for* the weather.
- 3 The company's financial losses were *due to* poor management.
- 4 She has got *as far* the museum before he found her.
- 5 The fire was *due* a faulty wire in the plug.
- 6 He was subjected *to* torture.
- 7 A lot of unhappiness is *due* boredom.
- 8 Alison will be playing *instead* me on Saturday.
- 9 *Due to* wet leaves on the line, this train will arrive an hour later.
- 10 Flights from Stanstead Airport were cancelled *owing* bad weather.
- 11 *With regard* the discussion about immigration, I'd like to hear Ms. Maso's opinion.
- 12 *Owing to* the rising cost of fuel, more people are using public transport.