

Dependent Prepositions Patterns

Learning Skills Centre, UCTL

In the English language there are many verbs, nouns and adjectives which are followed by specific prepositions. The prepositions are called dependent because their choice depends on the particular word and its meaning.

Prepositional verb and object + preposition + object

agree about sth with sb
agree with sb about/over sth
apologise to sb for sth
complain about sth to sb
complain to sb about sth

depend on sb/sth for sth
disagree with sb about/over sth
quarrel with sb about/over sth
rely on sb/sth for sth

(sb = somebody; sth = something)

Verb and direct object + preposition + indirect object

(* These verbs can also follow the pattern: verb + direct object + preposition + *ing* form)

*accuse sb of sth**
acquit sb of sth
*advise sb against sth**
advise sb of sth
aim sth at sb
*arrest sb for sth**
*beat sb at sth**
*blame sb for sth**
blame sth on sb
bother sb with sth
*compensate sb for sth**
*congratulate sb for sth**
(US English)
*congratulate sb on sth**
*convict sb of sth**
convince sb of sth
criticise sb for sth
cure sb of sth

deprive sb of sth
describe sth to sb
discuss sth with sb
explain sth to sb
help sb with sth
lend sth to sb
make sth for sb
persuade sb of sth
*praise sb for sth**
present sb with sth
present sth to sb
prevent sb from –ing
protect sb from sth
provide sb with sth
provide sth for sb
reassure sb of sth
release sb from sth
rescue sb from sth

rid sb of sth
rob sb of sth
save sb/sth from sth
starve sb of sth
steal sth from sb
stop sb from –ing
strip sb of sth
supply sb with sth
supply sth for/to sb
suspect sb of sth
throw sth at sb (=in order to hit them)
throw sth to sb (=in order for them to catch it)
*warn sb about/against sth**
welcome sb to sth

Noun + preposition + noun/*ing* form

(* These nouns can only follow the pattern: noun + preposition + noun)

advantage of/in
aim of/in
amazement at
anger about/at
annoyance about/at
*answer to**
anxiety about
apology for
attack on
awareness of
belief in
boredom with
craving for
*damage to**
danger of/in
decrease of (+ quantity)
*decrease in**
delay in
delay of (+ duration)
*demand for**
difficulty in

effect of
excitement about/at
expense of
fear of
gratitude for
hope of
idea of
*increase in**
increase of (+ quantity)
insistence on
insurance against
interest in
job of
lack of
matter of
*matter with**
method of
objection to
pleasure of/in
point of/in
possibility of

prelude to
problem of/in
proof of
prospect of/for
purpose of/in
question about/of
reason for
relationship with
satisfaction with
sequel to
*solution to**
success in
surprise at
task of
taste for
thought of
way of
work of
worry about

Adjective + preposition

(* These adjectives can also be followed by **to + infinitive**)

<i>absent from</i>	<i>dependent on</i>	<i>made of</i> (+original material which is visible)
<i>still accustomed to</i>	<i>devoid of</i>	<i>nervous of</i>
<i>addicted to</i>	<i>different from/to</i>	<i>obedient to</i>
<i>afraid of*</i>	<i>different than</i> (US English)	<i>obvious to</i>
<i>amazed at/by</i>	<i>disgusted with/at</i>	<i>opposed to</i>
<i>angry, annoyed*, furious*</i>	<i>eager* for</i>	<i>pleased at/about</i>
<i>at/about</i> (+ the cause of this feeling)	<i>engaged* in</i> (= working in/involvement in)	(+ something general, e.g. your recovery/the inflation figures)
<i>angry, annoyed, furious with</i>	<i>engaged to</i> (= promised to marry)	<i>pleased with</i> (+ something personal, e.g. my exam results/my new jacket)
(+ the person who caused this feeling)	<i>excited* about</i>	<i>popular with</i>
<i>anxious about</i> (= feel nervous/worried about sb/sth)	<i>faithful to</i>	<i>prone to</i>
<i>anxious* for</i> (= waiting impatiently for sth)	<i>famous for</i>	<i>proud of*</i>
<i>ashamed* of</i>	<i>fed up with</i>	<i>ready* for</i>
<i>astonished at/by</i>	<i>fond of</i>	<i>related to</i>
<i>available for</i> (+ purpose)	<i>fraught with</i>	<i>reminiscent of</i>
<i>available to</i> (+ person)	<i>glad for</i> (=pleased for sb)	<i>responsible for</i>
<i>aware of</i>	<i>glad of</i> (=grateful for sth)	<i>riddled with</i>
<i>bad/food at</i> (+ ability)	<i>good at/for/to</i> (→ bad)	<i>scared of</i>
<i>bad/good for</i> (= effect on health)	<i>grateful for</i> (+ the cause of this feeling)	<i>shocked at</i>
<i>bad/good to</i> (= behaviour towards/treatment of the object)	<i>grateful to</i> (+ the person who caused this feeling)	<i>short of</i>
<i>based on</i>	<i>guilty of</i>	<i>similar to</i>
<i>bored with</i>	<i>harmful to</i>	<i>sorry* about</i> (+ the cause of this feeling)
<i>capable of</i>	<i>hopeful of</i>	<i>sorry for</i> (+ the person you feel sympathy towards)
<i>characteristic of</i>	<i>impervious to</i>	<i>subject to</i>
<i>close to</i>	<i>impressed with/by</i>	<i>successful in</i>
<i>concerned about</i> (=worried about)	<i>inclined towards</i>	<i>sufficient for</i>
<i>concerned with</i> (= involved in)	<i>incumbent upon</i>	<i>suitable for</i>
<i>conducive to</i>	<i>inherent in</i>	<i>superior to</i>
<i>confident of</i>	<i>intent on</i>	<i>sure of</i>
<i>content* with</i>	<i>interested* in</i>	<i>terrified of</i>
<i>contrary to</i>	<i>jealous of</i>	<i>tired of</i>
<i>convenient for</i>	<i>keen* on</i>	<i>typical of</i>
<i>conversant with</i>	<i>kind to</i>	<i>upset about/by/over</i> (+ the cause of this feeling)
<i>crazy* about</i>	<i>lacking in</i>	<i>upset with</i> (+ the person who caused this feeling)
<i>crowded with</i>	<i>late for</i>	<i>worried about</i>
<i>curious* about</i>	<i>made by</i> (+ the person/company who produced it)	<i>worthy of</i>
<i>deficient in</i>	<i>made for</i> (+ its purpose)	<i>wrong with</i>
	<i>made from</i> (+ original material which has been transformed)	