

Grammar

We use certain prepositions after specific nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Our choice of preposition is based on the noun, verb, or adjective that come before it. Usually, there is only one option, although some words have many possible preposition options. The word + preposition selections in the following tables are the most common.

1 Nouns + Prepositions

Noun	Preposition
information, nothing, anything, something, truth	about
demand, excuse, explanation, in return, in exchange, need, reason, reputation, responsibility	for
belief, change, increase / decrease, drop, rise / fall	in
advantage / disadvantage, cause, idea, indication, kind, knowledge, understanding, opinion, awareness	of
effect, influence, impact	on
agreement, contact, connection, contract, dealings, in association, involvement, meeting, negotiation	with

I knew **nothing about** the affair.

What was the **reason for** the cancellation?

The **change in** our system has produced good results.

I appreciate your **understanding of** the situation.

Spinal manipulative therapy has an immediate **effect on sensitivity in** people with low back pain.

We have an **agreement with** our partners regarding budget rectification.

2 Adjectives + prepositions

Adjective	Preposition
anxious, concerned, confused, enthusiastic, excited, happy, knowledgeable, optimistic / pessimistic, sorry, worried	about
astonished, awful, surprised, terrible, useless	at
amazed, annoyed, astonished, concerned, excited, impressed, inspired, shocked, surprised	by
appropriate, concerned, eligible, famous, ready, responsible, suitable	for
disappointed, involved, interested, specialized	in
aware, conscious, capable / incapable, certain, sure, frightened, full, short, proud, tired, sick, typical	of
based, dependent, insistent	on
annoyed, bored, disappointed, impressed, meet, pleased, satisfied	with

They are **optimistic about** the economy.

We were **surprised at** his reaction.

The sponsor was **impressed by** the team's performance.

They are **responsible for** locking the doors when we leave the office.

We were **disappointed in** the response to our ad.

She was **aware of** the time change.

The statistics are **based on** our product research.

I wasn't **satisfied with** our final product.

3 Verbs + prepositions

Verb	Preposition
care, complain, forget, hear, joke, know, learn, read, talk, think, warn, wonder, worry, write	about
aim, laugh, took, shout, smile	at
choose, decide, differentiate	between
apologize, apply, check, forgive, hope, prepare, search, wait, wish, use	for
learn, prevent, stop, suffer, protect	from
believe, specialize, succeed	in
run, divide, cut, translate	into
assure, convince, accuse, suspect, approve / disapprove, consist	of
agree, concentrate, count, depend, insist, rely, congratulate, compliment, spend	on
apologize, describe, explain, listen, point, present, speak, talk, write, happen	to
play, fill, provide, supply	with

I have been **thinking about** holding a celebrity auction.

Have you **looked at** the editorial section of the morning newspaper yet?

I haven't **decided between** a Playstation 4 or an XBOX One yet.

I have been **searching for** my journal that I'm sure I left on my desk.

We have **learned from** our mistakes.

Their manager didn't **succeed in** getting the go-ahead on the project.

You'll never guess who **Iran into** at the grocery store.

I **apologized to** the client. I **apologized for** the error on the receipt.

The following verbs **and** prepositions are usually used with an object: *forgive, prevent, stop, protect, assure, convince, accuse, suspect, compliment, congratulate, provide, spend, and supply.*

He **convinced** me to chip in a few dollars.

I **congratulated** him **on** the great job he had done.

The tour guide **provided** us **with** maps.