

LESSON

Verb + Preposition Collocations – Lesson (low intermediate B1 level)

Many verbs in English must be followed by a **specific preposition**.

These combinations don't always follow clear logic — so we learn them as **chunks**.

1. Verb + ABOUT

Used to express **feelings, concerns, thoughts, or topics**.

Common B1 verbs:

- care **about**
- worry **about**
- think **about**
- complain **about**
- know **about**
- argue **about**

Examples:

- I care **about** you.
- Don't worry **about** the exam.
- They complained **about** the noise.
- She argued **about** money.

2. Verb + ON

Used for **dependence** or actions done **to** something.

Common B1 verbs:

- rely **on**
- depend **on**
- focus **on**
- spend (time) **on**
- agree **on**
- decide **on**

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Examples:

- You can rely **on** me.
- The trip depends **on** the weather.
- Let's focus **on** the first task.
- We agreed **on** a price.

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3. Verb + TO

Used with verbs of **movement, communication, or direction**.

Common B1 verbs:

- apologise **to**
- belong **to**
- complain **to** (a person)
- speak **to**
- listen **to**
- explain **to**
- write **to**

Examples:

- She apologised **to** him.
- This key belongs **to** the front door.
- We complained **to** the manager.
- I explained the rules **to** my friend.

4. Verb + IN

Used to express **belief, participation, or involvement**.

Common B1 verbs:

- believe **in**
- succeed **in**
- take part **in**

- specialise **in**
- get involved **in**

Examples:

- I believe **in** you.
- They succeeded **in** fixing the car.
- She takes part **in** school clubs.

5. Verb + FOR

Used to express **payment**, **support**, or **reasons**.

Common B1 verbs:

- pay **for**
- pray **for**
- apply **for**
- ask **for**
- wait **for**
- thank (someone) **for**

Examples:

- I'll pay **for** the tickets.
- I pray **for** you every day.
- She applied **for** a new job.
- We waited **for** the bus.

6. Verb + WITH

Used to express **difficulty**, **connection**, or **accompaniment**.

Common B1 verbs:

- cope **with**
- deal **with**
- agree **with**
- help (someone) **with**
- trust **with**

Examples:

- I can't cope **with** all this work.
- She helped me **with** my homework.

Direct vs Indirect Objects (VERY IMPORTANT RULE)

Many verb + preposition structures have **two parts**:

- 1. The thing (object) you talk *about, for, or on***
→ This goes **after the preposition**.
- 2. The person (indirect object) you talk *to* or *write to***
→ This goes **after the person-preposition**.

Structure Pattern

Verb + preposition + object + (optional) preposition + person

Example:

I complain **about** the noise **to** the manager.

- **about the noise** → direct object
- **to the manager** → indirect object (receiver)

More examples:

- I apologised **for** the mistake **to** her.
- I talked **about** the problem **to** my friend.
- We argued **about** the bill **with** the waiter.

Always remember:

You *cannot* say: complain the manager the noise

You must include the prepositions.

Practice Activities (B1)

A. Complete with the correct preposition

Use: **about, on, to, in, for, with**

1. I care _____ my friends.
2. She complained _____ the service _____ the waiter.
3. You can rely _____ me.
4. I believe _____ positive thinking.
5. We paid _____ the tickets already.
6. They argued _____ money.
7. I need to speak _____ you.
8. He prayed _____ his family.
9. We depend _____ buses to get to work.
10. I can't cope _____ this pressure.

B. Rewrite using correct collocations

1. I *depend of* my parents.
2. She *argued for* the noise.
3. He *listen on* music.
4. This pen *belongs for* my sister.
5. I *dream to* travelling.

Activity A — Complete with the correct preposition

Use: **about, on, to, in, for, with**

1. I care **about** my friends.
2. She complained **about** the service **to** the waiter.
3. You can rely **on** me.
4. I believe **in** positive thinking.
5. We paid **for** the tickets already.
6. They argued **about** money.
7. I need to speak **to** you.
8. He prayed **for** his family.
9. We depend **on** buses to get to work.
10. I can't cope **with** this pressure.

Activity B — Rewrite using correct collocations

1. I *depend of* my parents.
→ **I depend on my parents.**
2. She *argued for* the noise.
→ **She argued about the noise.**
3. He *listen on* music.
→ **He listens to music.**
4. This pen *belongs for* my sister.
→ **This pen belongs to my sister.**
5. I *dream to* travelling.
→ **I dream about travelling.** (or *of travelling*)

