

to be kind to: to treat sb/sth in a gentle and friendly way

He was always very kind to me.

to be lacking in sth: not to have enough of sth

His problems stem from the fact that he is lacking in confidence.

to lapse into another language: to start speaking in a different language (especially your mother tongue)

When she got excited she had a tendency to lapse into Italian.

to lavish praise on sb/sth: to say that sth (particularly a book or film) is very good

"You can't expect the critics to lavish praise on everything you write," she said.

to be licensed to do sth: to have official permission to do sth, or to sell sth

We are not licensed to sell fireworks.

to liken sb/sth to sb/sth else: to say or write that sth/sb is similar to sth/sb else

The poet likens the lady to a summer's day.

to long for sth: (literary) to really want sth

She longed for him to take her dancing.

to marvel at: to be very surprised by sth (because it is very good, very clever, etc) and to admire it as a result

He marvelled at the way she dealt with the problem.

to meddle in sb's life/affairs: to interfere in a situation which does not concern you, causing other people problems

Now she hates you. That's what you get for meddling in her affairs.

to meet with little/no success: (formal) to be unsuccessful

The minister tried to persuade the union to call off the strike, but met with little success.

to merge with: to join together to form one (company)

If BMY merges with Vectron, the resulting company will become the biggest automobile manufacturer in the world.

to model sth on sth else: to design a particular system (educational, legal, electoral, transport, etc) so that it is a copy of another system

They've modelled their electoral system on ours.

to be a newcomer to: to have recently started/arrived

We're newcomers to this area.

to be noted for: to be well known and admired for [Note: **to be notorious for:** to be well known for having a bad quality]

This region of Chile is noted for its beautiful mountain scenery.

Chanta Air is notorious for its appalling in-flight service.

to be obsessed with: not to be able to stop thinking about sth

He is obsessed with football.

It never occurred to me that/to do sth: at no time did I think that/of doing sth [Note: for questions **Didn't it ever occur to you that...** (criticism is implied), **Did it ever occur to you that...** (no criticism is implied)]

It never occurred to him that she might/would be offended by what he said.

Didn't it ever occur to you that I might be worried?

Did it ever occur to you that your book would become the biggest selling novel of all time?

to be opposed to: to disagree with and disapprove of sth

I'm not coming with you. I'm (totally) opposed to bullfighting.

to persist in: to continue to do sth even though you have previously been warned or told not to

If you persist in being late, you will be expelled.

a place is plunged into darkness: the lights suddenly go off in a place and it becomes very dark

An electrical fault plunged the area into darkness.

to be popular with: to be liked by

This kind of music is popular with teenagers.

to be powerless to do sth: to be unable to do sth because you lack legal power / authority / enough strength

Heavily outnumbered, the police were powerless to prevent the rioters from entering the palace.

to pretend to/that: to behave as if you did or felt sth when in fact you didn't

He pretended to be surprised.

He pretended that he hadn't heard.

to be pressed/pushed for time: to be in a hurry and hence have very little time to do sth

I think I'm going to take a cab. I'm a bit pressed for time.

to prevent sb/sth from doing sth: to stop sb from doing sth

The government has introduced price controls in order to prevent the economy from spinning out of control.

to pride yourself on sth/the fact that: to be proud of

The Venice Film Festival prides itself on being the arty alternative to the more commercially orientated Cannes Film Festival.

prior to: (formal) before

Opp: subsequent to

We did a lot of market research prior to launching this product.

Practice

1. Complete the sentences below with an appropriate preposition.



1 She opened the letter in anticipation.
"You don't know how much I've **longed** this day!" she said.
"Now I'll find out the truth."

2 If you are **kind**
others, they will be **kind**
..... you.

3 Accidents are
more likely to
happen when a

ferry carries more people than it is **licensed**

- 4 His attempts to persuade her to accept the promotion **met** little success.
- 5 I couldn't help but **marvel** the way the trapeze artists flew through the air with such ease and grace.
- 6 The opposition may be **lacking** experience, but they more than make up for it with intelligence and skill.
- 7 If this company **merges** Acme and Sons, we could all lose our jobs.
- 8 The Prince **likened** the museum's new extension an ugly scar on the face of an old friend.
- 9 Neither of us felt that the film deserved quite as much praise as the jury had **lavished** it.
- 10 His mother was Spanish. Her English was excellent, except for a tendency to **lapse** Spanish whenever she got excited.
- 11 Many countries around the world have **modelled** their systems of government that of the USA.
- 12 When will you learn that nothing good ever comes of **meddling** other people's affairs?

2. For questions 1 to 14, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using 3 to 8 words. You must include the word given in bold, which cannot be changed in any way.

- 1 There was nothing we could do to stop him.
powerless We were him.
- 2 She's proud of her cooking.
prides She her cooking.
- 3 If you continue to cause trouble, we shall have no alternative but to dismiss you.
persist If you
..... forced to dismiss you.

- 4 All his students liked him.
popular He students.
- 5 I never thought for one moment that Harry might be involved.
occurred It never
Harry might be involved.
- 6 I strongly disagree with any kind of hunting.
opposed I'm
any kind of hunting.
- 7 As I have only just started teaching, I rely a lot on my colleagues for help and advice.
newcomer As I am
I rely a lot on my colleagues for help and advice.
- 8 His generosity was well known to everyone.
noted He was generosity.
- 9 Suddenly, the lights went off.
plunged Suddenly, the room
..... darkness.
- 10 Only sign a contract after you have read the small print.
prior Always read
..... any contract.
- 11 He's not really hurt. He's putting it on.
pretending He's only hurt.
- 12 He couldn't participate in the tournament because he was injured.
prevented His
..... part in the tournament.
- 13 I'd love to stop and chat, but I can't. I'm running rather late.
pressed I'd love to stop and chat, but I can't. I'm
a time.
- 14 All he ever thinks about is making money.
obsessed He is money.



to be racked with (guilt/pain): to feel very guilty about sth/be in great pain

I was racked with guilt over what I had said to him.

He was racked with pain from his toothache.

to reconcile oneself to sth: to accept an unpleasant situation

She never managed to reconcile herself to her father's death.

a reduction in: a decrease in

Opp: an increase in

Over the past ten years there has been (a dramatic/a gradual/only a slight/a significant/a steady/an unprecedented) reduction in the number of robberies in the United Kingdom.

a (sad) reflection on: if sth is a (sad) reflection on a person or thing, it gives a bad impression of them/it

It is a (sad) reflection on the society we live in that a film that glorifies war has been nominated for eleven Oscars.

to refrain from: to deliberately not do sth

Please refrain from leaving your seats during the performance.

to be related to sb: to be members of the same family

We look alike, but we are not related to each other.

a report on: a report describing

The ecology agency have produced a report on the devastating effect insecticides are having on the environment.

to have a reputation for: to be well known for

Mr Simpson has a reputation for being a fair-minded teacher.

restrictions on: limits on

There are no restrictions on the amount of perfume that you can bring into this country.

to revel in sth: to enjoy sth, especially sth that other people would not expect you to enjoy

He revelled in the notoriety that the scandal gave him.

to be rude to sb: to be impolite to sb

He was sent to the headmaster for being rude to his teacher.

to be scathing about sth/sb: to be very critical of sb/sth

Lord Boxley, the author of the report, is scathing about the way the police handled the case.

a solution to: an answer to

We need to find a solution to this problem as soon as possible.

to specialise in: to give particular attention to

I sell all kinds of books, but I specialise in crime fiction from the 1940s and 1950s.

a stance on: a government's/organisation's official opinion/attitude towards sth

The government has adopted a tough/uncompromising stance on fox-hunting and is currently pushing legislation through parliament to make it illegal.

a stickler for sth: if sb is a stickler for sth (e.g. cleanliness) they always demand or require it

[Note: stickler for **rules/accuracy/punctuality**, etc]

Don't be late. Mr Thompson is a stickler for punctuality.

to stoop to sth: to lower or completely ignore one's moral standards in order to get what one wants

I might be desperate to pass the exam, but you don't honestly think I would stoop to cheating, do you?

to stray from a path: to leave a path

There's only one path through the forest. Don't stray from it or you will get totally lost.

to be strewn with sth: to be covered in sth

His bedroom floor was strewn with odd socks, dirty shirts and crumpled pieces of paper.

a struggle for: a long and difficult attempt to achieve sth

[Note: (i) **to struggle to do sth:** to find it very difficult to do sth (ii)

to struggle with sb: to fight sb who is attacking you]

The small country's struggle for independence was really admirable.

We are only a small company and in the present economic climate we are really struggling to survive.

He's not really struggling with an attacker. It's a martial arts contest.

to substitute for sb/sth: to take the place of sb/use sth instead of sth else

If you suffer from insomnia try substituting camomile tea for coffee.

to succumb to pressure/temptation:

to find it impossible not to do what sb is trying very hard to persuade you to do/the temptation is so strong that you finally do what you have been trying not to do

The government is unlikely to succumb to public pressure to abolish the voting tax.

She knew that if she succumbed to the temptation to buy the dress, she'd be broke for the rest of the month.

to survive on (an amount of money):

to have enough money to pay one's bills and buy the things one needs to survive

I don't know how she can survive on such a low salary.

to be susceptible to sth/sb: to be very likely to be affected/influenced by sth/sb

Don't be too harsh on him; he's very susceptible to criticism.

Practice

1. Complete the following sentences with an appropriate preposition.



- 1 If you **stray** the path, you will get lost.
 2 Patrons are kindly requested to **refrain** using mobile phones during the performance.
 3 The latest government **report** inner city

crime makes horrifying reading.

- 4 Sue is very **susceptible** flattery.
 5 I could have helped her but I didn't, and I have been **racked** guilt ever since.
 6 That he was never charged with any crime is a sad **reflection** our criminal justice system.
 7 I think most people would hate all this publicity, but not Tom – he's positively **revelling** it.
 8 There should be tougher **restrictions** the sale of fireworks in this country.
 9 Ms Jones is **substituting** our teacher tomorrow.
 10 He resigned because he vehemently disagreed with the party's **stance** education.
 11 How Bob and Sally manage to **survive** £45 a week I just don't know.
 12 This is a serious problem and if we don't find a **solution** it fast, we're going to be in deep trouble.
 13 He might be in a very difficult position but I doubt whether he would **stoop** that kind of behaviour.
 14 He was highly critical of the government in his report. He was particularly **scathing** its proposed cutbacks in social services.
 15 Finally, the government **succumbed** public pressure and abolished the poll tax.
 16 Sharon had to **reconcile herself** the fact that her best friend had betrayed her.
 17 As a lawyer, I am prepared to support you in your **struggle** justice.
 18 The pavement outside the Princess' house was **strewn** wreaths, flowers and messages of condolence.
 19 Mr Jenkins, our headmaster, was a fair man but he was a **stickler** the rules.

2. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using 3 to 8 words. You must include the word given, which cannot be changed in any way.



- 1 It was wrong of me to have insulted her.
rude I shouldn't her.
 2 His honesty was well known.
reputation He honest.
 3 What is the President's position with regard to nuclear weapons?
stance What is the nuclear weapons?
 4 I don't think I could make ends meet on a salary like his.
survive I doubt salary like his.
 5 Even though they are not relatives, they have the same surname.
related They might have the same surname.
 6 The economy is in better shape because the price of oil has dropped.
reduction The economy is in better shape thanks oil.
 7 I'm going to concentrate on contract law once I have graduated.
specialise After I contract law.
 8 Taking out a bank loan will solve your problems, but only temporarily.
solution Taking out a bank loan will only your problems.
 9 There were empty lemonade bottles and half-eaten sandwiches all over his floor.
strewn His floor half-eaten sandwiches.
 10 We would appreciate it if passengers did not use their mobile phones during take-off.
refrain We would kindly remind passengers mobile phones during take-off.