

**to disapprove of sb/sth:** to dislike sb/sth, not to approve of sb/sth

*I strongly disapprove of the way advertisers control the commercial TV channels.*

**to dissuade sb from doing sth:** to persuade sb not to do sth

*We tried to dissuade him from joining the army.*

**to be disqualified from sth:** to be prevented from taking any further part in a competition/sporting event because you have broken a rule

*He was disqualified from the tournament because they found traces of a banned substance in his blood.*

**to have an effect on sb/sth:** to affect or influence sb/sth

*I don't care what you do in your spare time as long as it does not have an adverse effect on your work.*

**to elaborate on sth:** to explain sth in more detail

*Would you care to elaborate on that statement?*

**to embark on a journey:** to start a long journey

*In 1778 he embarked on a journey that was to take him halfway round the world.*

**to endeavour to do sth:** (formal) to try to do sth

*I shall endeavour to do my best.*

**to excel at sth:** to be very good at sth

*At school she excelled at everything except maths.*

**an excerpt/extract from sth:** a short passage taken from a book/film/ piece of music

*An extract from his latest novel was printed in the local newspaper.*

**an expert in/on:** sb who knows a great deal about sth

*Doctor Jansen is an expert in ancient Greek philosophy.*

**to be familiar with sth:** to know sth or understand it well

*Are you familiar with the works of Chester Himes?*

**to fish for compliments:** to say/do sth so that sb pays you a compliment

*"Do you think I'm getting fat." She said. She knew she wasn't. She was fishing for compliments.*

**to have a flair for sth:** to have a natural ability to do sth well

*She has a flair for languages.*

**a flaw in sth:** an imperfection or weakness, especially in an argument

*You say that Marlowe wrote Shakespeare's plays. There's just one flaw in your argument: Marlowe died before most of Shakespeare's plays were written.*

**fluctuations in sth:** sudden changes in sth (price or temperature)

*Fluctuations in prices are more usual in times of recession.*

**to be fraught with:** if a situation is fraught with problems or danger, it involves a lot of them

*The life of a war correspondent is fraught with danger.*

**to be glued to the television:** to watch the television with great interest and all your attention

*During the World Cup final, millions of people around the world will be glued to their televisions.*

**to haggle over the price of sth:** to argue with sb over the price of sth in order to get a better price

*That seems a good price to me, so I shan't haggle over it.*

**to be hopeless at sth:** to be very bad at sth

*Don't ask me. I'm hopeless at geography.*

**to be identical to sth/sb:** to look exactly the same as sth/sb

*She's identical to her sister.*

**to have an impact on sb/sth:** to have a big effect on sb/sth

*The discovery of Mad Cow Disease had a massive and immediate impact on the British meat industry.*

**to be impressed by/with sth:** to think that sth is exceptionally good and to admire and respect it as a result

*We have been impressed with the progress you have made since you joined this company.*

**to be indicative of sth:** to clearly show sth

*The fact that he does so little is indicative of his lack of interest in his work.*

**to have/be a good/bad influence on sb/sth:** to affect/have a positive/negative effect on sb/sth

*James is a very bad influence on Mark. That is why I have sat them at opposite ends of the class.*

**information on/about:** information regarding

*I'd like some information on your Spanish courses.*

**to ingratiate yourself with sb:** to try and make sb (generally a person in a position of power) like you

*It's no good trying to ingratiate yourself with me by using flattery.*

**to be intent on doing sth:** to be determined to do sth (often sth that other people think you should not do)

*He seems to be intent on joining the army.*

**to invest in sth:** to give or lend money for a useful or profitable purpose

*Would you like to invest in my company?*

**judging by sth:** based on what I can see/have seen/have heard, this is my opinion

*Judging by the look on his face, I'd say that he has just received some very good news.*

**to be justified in doing sth:** to have a good reason for doing sth

*The local council were perfectly justified in evicting them – they hadn't paid their rent for months.*



## Practice

1. Complete the sentences by filling in the gaps with one of the words below.

disqualified – disapprove – flair – elaborate – expert – flaw –  
fraught – familiar – embark – dissuade – fishing – endeavour –  
impressed – effect – fluctuations – extracts – excelled

- 1 He'll know if it is genuine or not. He is a(n) .....  
**on** eighteenth-century pottery.
- 2 Should we ..... **on** a journey so .....  
**with** danger that we are likely to get killed?
- 3 He was ..... **from** the tournament when it was  
found out that he had lied about his age.
- 4 Try as we might, we couldn't ..... him **from**  
dropping out of college.
- 5 He has a(n) ..... **for** languages and plans to  
study Spanish and French at Oxford.
- 6 "I'm not looking my best today, am I?" she asked,  
obviously ..... **for** compliments.
- 7 The alarm they had fitted was extremely sensitive to  
..... **in** room temperature. Any increase in  
temperature would trigger it off.
- 8 There is an obvious ..... **in** your argument.  
You say that the Xinxu tribe had no concept of the  
future, and yet the words 'tomorrow' and 'later' both  
occur in their language.
- 9 The author was supposed to talk about her life and  
her writing techniques, but all she did was read a  
number of ..... **from** her latest novel.
- 10 He stood up and looked at the jury. "The Prosecution  
will ..... **to** show that the accused did wilfully  
set fire to Rochester Public Library."
- 11 Being constantly ill was bound to have an adverse  
..... **on** his school work.
- 12 Not only was he a very gifted student but he also  
..... **at** sports.
- 13 The other directors might ..... **of** my methods  
but they know that I get results."
- 14 You mentioned in your book that you had a difficult  
childhood. Would you care to ..... **on** that?
- 15 Chad? I'm not ..... **with** this part of the world.  
It's in Africa, isn't it?
- 16 "I am most ..... **by** the progress you have  
made in your schoolwork this term," said the  
headmaster.

2. Complete the sentences below with an appropriate preposition.

- 1 They don't look like twins?! You can't be serious! They are **identical** .....  
one another.
- 2 It would be unwise to **invest** .....  
gold at the moment as the market is currently very unstable.
- 3 **Judging** ..... his accent, I'd say he was Spanish.
- 4 Their music has had, and will continue to have, a huge **influence** ..... generations of musicians.
- 5 Mother in the kitchen, children **glued** ..... the television, father at work. Domestic harmony – 1950's style.
- 6 If you would like further **information** ..... any of our courses, please do not hesitate to call us.
- 7 I am **hopeless** ..... maths. I can add and subtract, but that's about it.
- 8 He never did any work and he was always causing trouble. As far as I'm concerned, they were perfectly **justified** ..... giving him the sack.
- 9 He wanted £80 for it. I couldn't afford £80, so we **haggled** ..... the price and he eventually sold it to me for £65.
- 10 The **impact** that this project is likely to have ..... local communities is not to be underestimated.
- 11 There are many **flaws** and inconsistencies ..... the voting system.
- 12 He was forever trying to **ingratiate** himself ..... his superiors, so he was popular with the company directors, but none of his co-workers could stand him.
- 13 The present government seems **intent** ..... destroying everything good about this country. It's latest decision to do away with free medical care for the needy is **indicative** ..... its callousness towards those who need its help the most.
- 14 Remember that if you express an opinion during the interview, you may be expected to **elaborate** ..... it.
- 15 Sean has a **flair** ..... business, and I don't doubt that he will be a millionaire before he is thirty.





**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.

