Verbs & prepositions — free worksheet

Write the preposition that goes with the verb.

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1. Verbs and Prepositions: Everyday Situations

Verbs & prepositions · Verbs and prepositions across everyday life, work, study, travel, health, technology, relationships and money

For questions 1–8, write the one preposition that completes each sentence.

1. He apologised _____ forgetting her birthday.

2. She firmly believed _____ daily practice, convinced it was the secret to mastering the piano.

3. The exam consists _____ two written papers and an oral test.

4. Airport security accused the passenger _____ carrying a prohibited item.

5. After the operation, he took several weeks to recover _____ the infection that had delayed his surgery.

6. The patent for the algorithm belongs _____ the university that funded the research.

7. Local residents strongly objected _____ building a new airport runway near the protected wetland.

8. Many small businesses are struggling _____ keeping up with rising rent costs this year.

2. Verbs and Prepositions: Everyday Situations

Verbs & prepositions · Verbs and their dependent prepositions across different areas of daily life

For questions 1–8, write the one preposition that completes each sentence.

1. After arriving an hour late for the dinner party, Tom apologised _____ his terrible timekeeping.

2. Several staff members have objected _____ the new attendance policy introduced last month.

3. During her postgraduate course, Maria chose to specialise _____ marine biology rather than general zoology.

4. The guided tour consists _____ a city walk, a boat trip and a visit to the old fortress.

5. She is slowly recovering _____ the flu that kept her in bed all week.

6. Excessive use of smartphones late at night can interfere _____ normal sleep patterns, researchers warn.

7. Her closest friend accused her _____ ignoring every message she had sent over the past month.

8. Many young professionals are choosing to invest _____ cryptocurrency despite the risks involved.

Answer Key

1. Verbs and Prepositions: Everyday Situations

1. for

2. in

3. of

4. of

5. from

6. to

7. to

8. with

1. Apologise for + noun/gerund names the action someone says sorry about, as in 'apologise for being late'; 'apologise to' is used only before the person being addressed, not the action itself.

2. Believe in + noun/gerund expresses faith or confidence in something, as in 'I believe in hard work'; no other preposition carries this meaning after this verb.

3. Consist of + noun phrase lists the concrete parts that make up something, e.g. 'the committee consists of five members'; 'consist in' is used only before an abstract quality or idea, as in 'success consists in trying', not before countable parts like papers and tests, so it cannot fit here.

4. Accuse someone of + noun/gerund states the wrongdoing a person is charged with, e.g. 'accused of lying'; other prepositions don't follow this verb.

5. Recover from + noun describes getting better after an illness or injury, as in 'recover from a cold'; no other preposition carries this meaning with this verb, so only this one fits.

6. Belong to + noun shows ownership, e.g. 'this bike belongs to my brother'; no other preposition expresses possession with this verb.

7. Object to + noun/gerund expresses opposition to something, as in 'he objected to the plan'; no other preposition is used with this verb in this sense.

8. Struggle with + noun/gerund describes having difficulty managing something, as in 'struggle with debt'; 'struggle against' would imply opposing a force, not coping with a problem, so it doesn't fit here.

2. Verbs and Prepositions: Everyday Situations

1. for

2. to

3. in

4. of

5. from

6. with

7. of

8. in

1. The verb 'apologise' is always followed by 'for' when naming the thing someone is sorry about, as in 'apologise for being late'.

2. The verb 'object' is followed by this preposition before the thing someone disagrees with, as in 'object to a proposal'; no other preposition carries this meaning of disagreement.

3. The verb 'specialise' is followed by this preposition before a field of study or work, as in 'specialise in tax law'.

4. The verb 'consist' is always followed by this preposition when listing the parts that make something up, as in 'the meal consisted of three courses'.

5. The verb 'recover' takes this preposition before an illness or difficult experience someone is getting better after, as in 'recover from surgery'.

6. The verb 'interfere' takes this preposition when something disrupts a process or activity, as in 'noise interfered with the recording'; the alternative preposition 'in' is used only for meddling in someone's personal affairs, which does not fit here.

7. The verb 'accuse' takes this preposition before the wrongdoing someone is blamed for, as in 'accuse someone of lying'.

8. The verb 'invest' is followed by this preposition before the thing money is put into, as in 'invest in property'.

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