

Prepositions

Volume 1 | Issue 2
24 Jan 2017

Prepositions are the ‘glue’ of sentences. They define the relationships between words in sentences and also introduce nouns into sentences. The relationship between a noun and pronoun is often indicated by a preposition.

The problems which arise for Filipinos when using prepositions is that in Tagalog, a preposition is frequently marked by ‘sa’ (sa labas, sa loob, sa bahay, sa simbahan). Unfortunately in English there are multiple combinations which use prepositions.

Noun and prepositions.

A cheque **for** – a bottle **of** – a reason **to** – a relationship **with** - a difference **between** – a rise/fall **in**, are a few examples of nouns and prepositions.



A bottle of Coke

Adjectives and prepositions.

To be angry/annoyed/furious – **with** someone, but to be angry/annoyed/furious – **about** something.

To be surprised/shocked/amazed – **by** something/someone.

To be afraid/scared/terrified – **of** something/someone.

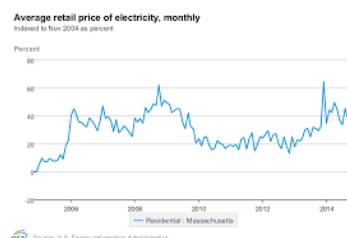
To be good/bad – **at** something.



To be married to someone.

Verbs and prepositions.

To apologize **to** someone **for** something.



To rise/fall/increase/decrease – **in** value.

To consist – **of** (components, parts, ingredients).

To belong – **to** something/someone.

To believe – **in** something.

To depend – **on** someone/something.

To die – **of** an illness.

Exercises to practice using verb-preposition combinations.



119-Verb-preposition
-1.pdf



120-Verb-preposition
-2.pdf



121-Verb-preposition
-3.pdf

Exercises to practice using noun-preposition combinations.



115-Noun-preposition
n.pdf



116-Noun-preposition
n-by-on.pdf

Exercises to practice using adjective-preposition combinations.



117-Adjective-preposition-1.pdf



118-Adjective-preposition-2.pdf

Another use of prepositions is with ‘phrasal verbs’ but when used with phrasal verbs they are called ‘particles’

Some examples are:

Come in – call out – take off – put down – turn off/on – take out.

Remember that phrasal verbs are complete packages and when used separately have different meanings.

This document is not covering phrasal verbs.

For the IELTS test the use of preposition pairs/combinations is more often than not:

Noun + in - The ‘in’ references an object or topic (A rise in salaries)

Noun + of – The ‘of’ references a quantity (A rise of 7%)

An increase/jump/leap, in the number of people who own a cellphone.

A decrease/fall/drop of 2,000 people who own a VCR.

Verb + at - The ‘at’ references a position or quantity. It does not reference movement.

Began/started/finished/ended at 7% - 200 – three quarters....

‘By’ is used in 2 ways. 1. To indicate the end of a period of movement.

2. To indicate the amount by which something has moved.

1. By the end of 2000 sales had risen to 4,000 units per week.

2. From September to November sales had risen by 2,000 units per week (to 4,000 units).

To - this is interchangeable with 'from'(but not with dates)

From – this is interchangeable with 'to' (but not with dates)

Literacy rates increased **from** 10,000 **to** 15,000 **from** 2001 **to** 2005.

Literacy rates increased **to** 15,000 **from** 10,000 **in** 2005 **from** 2001.

Between can be used to express a range or the time between 2 points.

The temperature ranged from **between** 29°C and 34°C during July.

World War Two was fought **between** 1939 and 1945.

Practice prepositions a lot because they are very different in Tagalog and English. They are far more complex and need to be learnt. Once you learn them, you can write much better essays, and know that the cohesion is better.