



Radosław Więckowski

ENGLISH PREPOSITIONS

Exercises



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Preface

Although the most important part of the English sentence is the verbal group, prepositions form its integral part. Incorrect usage of prepositions in English is like driving your car at night with the headlights off. You can't find the way in darkness. The ebook illuminates the way by being the most definitive resource for English learners at all levels, focusing on prepositions in a wide variety of contexts and examples. With this self-study guide, you will be able to broaden and test your knowledge and see the correct answer consulting the key.

A plethora of real-life sentences constitutes the biggest value of the ebook. The sentences come from such papers and magazines as The Washington Post, The Guardian, Newsweek, Time, Business English Magazine, as well as websites www.cnn.com, www.bbc.co.uk, or learnersdictionary.com. *The Writer's Guide to Prepositions* by Charles Prieur and Elizabeth Champion Speyer has been an interesting reference book from which a lot of examples are derived. The biggest asset of the publication is a thorough and definitive presentation of English prepositions in a wide range of interesting and contrastive contexts:

1. I'll give you **until** the count of ten to get out of here. = I'll give you a count of ten to get out of here.
2. If you're not out of here **by** the count of ten, I'm calling the police. = If you're not out of here **by** the time I count to ten, I'm calling the police.
3. Jump off the diving board **at/on** the count of ten.
4. Hold your breath **for** a count of ten.

The overriding aim of the ebook is a practical one: the more examples you have, the better chance of gaining a feel for preposition usage. The best way to learn which prepositions go with which words is to read as much as you can in English, and pay attention to which combinations sound right. The ebook *English Prepositions - Test* serves as a perfect complement to the ebook.

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1. An introductory note on the method for learning English prepositions

The basic question you can ask yourself is how to remember which preposition you should use with the given verb, adjective or noun. The ebook covers the most important prepositions in a variety of contexts which pose much difficulty to learners of English at different levels. In the exercises the following method for learning prepositions has been adopted. First you get to know different meanings and collocations in grey boxes and then you can proceed to do exercises below and quickly check the correctness of your answers consulting a key.

In the examples in grey there are contrastive and short examples of preposition usage. The bracket with the preposition inside means that the given preposition is optional and can be omitted:

be **at** work (*be at a workplace or be busy with sth*) ≠ be **in** work (*not be unemployed*)

estimate **at** 5% ≠ increase/decrease (**by**) 5%

by the lake ≠ **at/on/by** the lake

The exercises consist in putting the correct preposition in blanks below:

1.

do sth **about** sth ≠ do **to** sth

what **about** sth?

1. We must do something ___ the situation 2. I couldn't do anything ___ it 3. What did you do ___ the keys? 4. What ___ my morning coffee?

You can quickly check the correctness of your answers in the key:

Key to 1:

1. We must do something **about** the situation 2. I couldn't do anything **about** it 3. What did you do **to** the keys? 4. What **about** my morning coffee?

The ebook *English Prepositions - Test* serves as a perfect complement to the ebook.

1. Prepositions *amid* and *amidst*

1.

amid = **amidst** : in or into the middle of something

1. It was hard to hear ___ / ___ all the cheering 2. The investigation comes ___ / ___ growing concerns
3. ___ / ___ such changes, one thing stayed the same 4. ___ / ___ [=during] all the fighting there still
remained a steady hope for peace 5. There was a single dark bird ___ / ___ a flock of white pigeons

Key to 1:

1. It was hard to hear **amid/amidst** all the cheering 2. The investigation comes **amid/amidst**
growing concerns 3. **Amid/Amidst** such changes, one thing stayed the same 4. **Amid/Amidst**
[=during] all the fighting there still remained a steady hope for peace 5. There was a single dark
bird **amid/amidst** a flock of white pigeons

2.

amid = **amidst** : surrounded by something

1. The hotel was in a beautiful position ___ / ___ lemon groves.

Key to 1:

1. The hotel was in a beautiful position **amid/amidst** lemon groves.

2. Prepositions **among** and **between**

1.

between (*in the space that separates two things or people*)

1. The ball rolled _____ the desk and the wall. 2. He stood _____ his mother and his father. 3. The office has two desks with a table _____ them. 4. They put up a fence _____ their house and their neighbor's house. 5. There are fences _____ all the houses.

Key to 1:

1. The ball rolled **between** the desk and the wall. 2. He stood **between** his mother and his father. 3. The office has two desks with a table **between** them. 4. They put up a fence **between** their house and their neighbor's house. 5. There are fences **between** all the houses.

2.

between the trees (*seen separately*) ≠ **among** the trees (*seen as one whole*)

1. The bomb landed _____ the two houses 2. The bomb landed _____ the three houses 3. The bomb landed _____ the houses (*seen separately*) 4. The bomb landed _____ the houses (*seen as one whole*) 5. Our house is _____ the woods, the river and the village 6. Our house is hidden _____ the trees (*seen as one whole*) 7. There's a little valley _____ high mountains 7. They searched the area _____ the river, the farmhouse and the woods 8. Switzerland lies _____ France, Italy, Austria and Germany

Key to 2:

1. The bomb landed **between** the two houses 2. The bomb landed **between** the three houses 3. The bomb landed **between** the houses (*seen separately*) 4. The bomb landed **among** the houses (*seen as one whole*) 5. Our house is **between** the woods, the river and the village 6. Our house is hidden **among** the trees (*seen as one whole*) 7. There's a little valley **between** high mountains 7. They searched the area **between** the river, the farmhouse and the woods 8. Switzerland lies **between** France, Italy, Austria and Germany

3.

between (used to indicate two or more people or things that are joined, related, or connected in some way)

Between you and me there is a long-lasting friendship.

Between you, me, and Kate there is a long-lasting friendship.

1. Decide ____ tea and coffee 2. She is busy choosing ____ the three cookies on that tray 2. ____ holding public office, teaching and writing, she has little free time 3. There are many relations/connections ____ linguistics, philosophy, and psychology.

Key to 3:

1. Decide **between** tea and coffee 2. She is busy choosing **between** the three cookies on that tray 2. **Between** holding public office, teaching and writing, she has little free time 3. There are many relations/connections **between** linguistics, philosophy, and psychology.

4.

between (used to indicate two or more people or things that are joined, related, or connected in some way)

among (in or through a group of people or things)

1. They compared the cars but found few differences ____ them. 2. We were allowed to choose ____ two/several options. 3. There's not much to choose ____ the two cars. [=the two cars are very similar] 4. There is very little difference ____ the two cars. 5. She recognized a few friends ____ the students 6. She recognized a few friends standing ____ the students and the teacher

Key to 4:

1. They compared the cars but found few differences **between** them. 2. We were allowed to choose **between** two/several options. 3. There's not much to choose **between** the two cars. [=the two cars are very similar] 4. There is very little difference **between** the two cars. 5. She recognized a few friends **among** the students 6. She recognized a few friends standing **between** the students and the teacher

5.

between (used to indicate two people or teams that are involved in a game, activity, etc.)

1. There's a game tonight _____ the Red Sox and the Yankees. [=the Red Sox are playing a game against the Yankees tonight]

Key to 5:

1. There's a game tonight **between** the Red Sox and the Yankees. [=the Red Sox are playing a game against the Yankees tonight]

6.

between (used to indicate movement from one place to another place)

1. He flies _____ Miami and Chicago twice a week 2. The airline provides service _____ New York and Paris 3. They live _____ New York and Chicago

Key to 6:

1. He flies **between** Miami and Chicago twice a week 2. The airline provides service **between** New York and Paris 3. They live **between** New York and Chicago

7.

between (used to indicate the beginning and ending points of a group of numbers, a range of measurement, etc.)

1. It's a number _____ 1 and 20 2. The package weighs somewhere _____ a pound and a pound and a half.

Key to 7:

1. It's a number **between** 1 and 20 2. The package weighs somewhere **between** a pound and a pound and a half.

8.

between (in the time that separates two actions, events, etc.)

1. If you want to lose weight, you shouldn't eat _____ meals. 2. _____ bites of food, they talked to

their teacher. 3. The two days _____ Monday and Thursday are Tuesday and Wednesday. 4. We should arrive _____ 9 and 10 o'clock.

Key to 8:

1. If you want to lose weight, you shouldn't eat **between** meals. 2. **Between** bites of food, they talked to their teacher. 3. The two days **between** Monday and Thursday are Tuesday and Wednesday. 4. We should arrive **between** 9 and 10 o'clock.

9.

between (*known only by two people*)

1. They shared a secret _____ them 2. _____ you and me, I think he's wrong. 3. What I'm going to tell you should remain a secret (just) _____ us/ourselves.

Key to 9:

1. They shared a secret **between** them 2. **Between** you and me, I think he's wrong. 3. What I'm going to tell you should remain a secret (just) **between** us/ourselves.

10.

between (*in shares to each of two or more people specified*)

between/among (*in shares to each of a group of people*)

1. The property was divided equally _____ the son and the daughter. 2. His estate was divided _____ /_____ his four grandchildren. 3. He divided the money _____ /_____ the kids 4. We shared two loaves of bread _____ /_____ our family 5. We shared two loaves of bread _____ Kate, Joan and Helen 6. We shared the wine _____ /_____ our team. 7. We shared the wine _____ Tom, Rob and Richard.

Key to 10:

1. The property was divided equally **between** the son and the daughter. 2. His estate was divided **between/among** his four grandchildren. 3. He divided the money **between/among** the kids 4. We shared two loaves of bread **between/among** our family 5. We shared two loaves of bread **between** Kate, Joan and Helen 6. We shared the wine **between/among** our team. 7. We shared the wine **between** Tom, Rob and Richard.

11.

be **among** ... *(be one of ..., used to describe someone who is unusual or excellent in some way)*

1. He is _____ the best football players 2. Cats are _____ the most popular pets 3. He is an actor _____ actors. [=he is a great actor] 4. He was a giant _____ men. [=he was very famous, powerful, successful, etc.]

Key to 11:

1. He is **among** the best football players 2. Cats are **among** the most popular pets 3. He is an actor **among** actors. [=he is a great actor] 4. He was a giant **among** men. [=he was very famous, powerful, successful, etc.]

3. Prepositions and adverbs **about** and **around**

1.

a book **about** sb/sth (*an ordinary, non-scientific book*) ≠ a book **on** sb/sth (*an academic, scientific book*)

a mine of information **about/on** sb/sth

1. The website gives free advice ___ all aspects of saving energy 2. It was an interesting talk ___ (*formal, academic one*) drugs 3. It was an interesting talk ___ (*informal, casual one*) drugs 4. It was an interesting lecture ___ finance 5. It was an interesting discussion ___ (*formal, academic one*) art 6. It was an interesting discussion ___ (*informal, casual one*) art 7. It is an academic book ___ art 8. She spoke ___ butterflies (*informally*) 9. She spoke ___ butterflies (*in an academic way*) 10. It's a mine of information ___ /___ butterflies 11. She gave me the low-down ___ /___ the other guests at the party 12. What's the scoop ___ /___ Kate? 13. What's your feeling/opinion ___ /___ this subject?

Key to 1:

1. The website gives free advice **on** all aspects of saving energy 2. It was an interesting talk **on** drugs 3. It was an interesting talk **about** drugs 4. It was an interesting lecture **on** finance 5. It was an interesting discussion **on** art 6. It was an interesting discussion **about** art 7. It is an academic book **on** art 8. She spoke **about** butterflies 9. She spoke **on** butterflies 10. It's a mine of information **on/about** butterflies 11. She gave me the low-down **on/about** the other guests at the party 12. What's the scoop **on/about** Kate? 13. What's your feeling/opinion **on/about** this subject?

2.

ramble **on about** sb/sth

1. He'll babble/gabble ___ ___ sports all night if you let him 2. He tends to ramble ___ ___ sports 3. He's always chuntering ___ ___ something or other 4. He is always drivelling ___ ___ football 5. She had trouble keeping awake as he droned ___ ___ himself 6. She's always banging ___ ___ [=going ___ ___] the importance of a good diet 7. What's he yammering ___ ___ now? = What's he ___ ___ now? 8. They are gabbing ___ ___ the weather 9. What's he rabbiting ___ ___ now? 10. I could hear him rattling ___ ___ politics 11. He is always bleating ___ ___ how he was badly treated

Key to 2:

1. He'll babble/gabble **on about** sports all night if you let him 2. He tends to ramble **on about** sports 3. He's always chuntering **on about** something or other 4. He is always drivelling **on about** football 5. She had trouble keeping awake as he droned **on about** himself 6. She's always banging **on about** [=going **on about**] the importance of a good diet 7. What's he yammering **on about** now? = What's he **on about** now? 8. They are gabbing **on about** the weather 9. What's he rabbiting **on about** now? 10. I could hear him rattling **on about** politics 11. He is always bleating **on about** how he was badly treated

3.

about/around the stadium

1. Look ___ / ___ you 2. He leaves things ___ / ___ him 2. Fish are abundant ___ / ___ the reefs

Key to 3:

1. Look **about/around** you 2. He leaves things **about/around** him 2. Fish are abundant **about/around** the reefs

4.

(at) about six o'clock = **(at) around** six o'clock = **along about** six o'clock

at six o'clock ≠ **by** six o'clock (*before six o'clock or at six at the latest*)

1. They will be here ___ ___ / ___ ___ eight o'clock 2. They will be here ___ eight o'clock 3. They will be here ___ eight o'clock (*before eight*) 4. It happened at ___ / ___ midnight 5. He arrived in the city along ___ July 17 6. Our flight should be arriving along ___ 8:00 7. OK see you ___ half two = OK see you ___ half past two

Key to 4:

1. They will be here **(at) about/(at) around** eight o'clock 2. They will be here **at** eight o'clock 3. They will be here **by** eight o'clock 4. It happened at **about/around** midnight 5. He arrived in the city along **about** July 17 6. Our flight should be arriving along **about** 8:00 7. OK see you **at** half two = OK see you **at** half past two

5.

walk **about/around** the city ≠ walk **into** the city (*direction*)

1. He ran ___ /___ the town 2. He ran ___ (*direction*) the town 3. She likes walking ___ /___ the streets
4. She likes running ___ /___ the garden 5. I like travelling ___ /___ the world 6. I will show you ___
/___ the castle 7. Their belongings were flung ___ /___ the room

Key to 5:

1. He ran **about/around** the town 2. He ran **into** the town 3. She likes walking **about/around** the streets
4. She likes running **about/around** the garden 5. I like travelling **about/around** the world 6. I will show you **about/around** the castle
7. Their belongings were flung **about/around** the room

6.

have sth **about/on/by** me

1. I have no money ___ /___ /___ me 2. She had the keys ___ /___ /___ her 3. She always keeps some cash ___ /___ /___ her

Key to 6:

1. I have no money **about/on/by** me 2. She had the keys **about/on/by** her 3. She always keeps some cash **about/on/by** her

7.

do sth **about** sth ≠ do **to/with** sth (*change or damage sth*) ≠ do **with** sth (*put sth somewhere*) ≠ do **to** sb

1. We must do something ___ it 2. I couldn't do anything ___ it 3. What have you done ___ /___ the walls? (Why have you changed/damaged the walls?) 4. What have you done ___ the keys? (Where have you put the keys?) 5. What have you done ___ /___ your hair? (Why have you changed the colour of your hair?) 6. Have you done something ___ /___ this room? [=have you changed this room in some way?] It looks different 7. My knee is sore. I must have done something ___ it [=I must have hurt it] when I fell 8. My hair is a mess. I can't do anything ___ it 9. We need to do something ___ this problem. [=we need to take some action to correct this problem] 10. What have I done ___ you to make you so angry?

Key to 7:

1. We must do something **about** it 2. I couldn't do anything **about** it 3. What have you done **to/with** the walls? (Why have you changed/damaged the walls?) 4. What have you done **with** the keys? (Where have you put the keys?) 5. What have you done **to/with** your hair? (Why have you changed the colour of your hair?) 6. Have you done something **to/with** this room? [=have you changed this room in some way?] It looks different 7. My knee is sore. I must have done something **to** it [=I must have hurt it] when I fell 8. My hair is a mess. I can't do anything **about** it 9. We need to do something **about** this problem. [=we need to take some action to correct this problem] 10. What have I done **to** you to make you so angry?

8.

there is sth **about** sb/sth

the thing I like **about** Christmas ≠ **at** Christmas

what did you think **about/of** sth? = did you like or dislike sth?

1. What do you find easy and difficult ___ learning English? 2. There is nothing strange ___ it 3. There is something ___ her looks 4. What didn't you like ___ the film? 5. What was the most exciting thing ___ your vacation? 6. There's something weird ___ that guy 7. There is something unpleasant ___ him 8. There is something of the gypsy ___ her 9. The thing I like the most ___ Christmas is the food 10. One of the things that many of us look forward to ___ Christmas is the food 11. There is something magical ___ Christmas 12. What did you think ___ /___ the movie? = Did you like or dislike the movie? 12. What did you like ___ the movie?

Key to 8:

1. What do you find easy and difficult **about** learning English? 2. There is nothing strange **about** it 3. There is something **about** her looks 4. What didn't you like **about** the film? 5. What was the most exciting thing **about** your vacation? 6. There's something weird **about** that guy 7. There is something unpleasant **about** him 8. There is something of the gypsy **about** her 9. The thing I like the most **about** Christmas is the food 10. One of the things that many of us look forward to **at** Christmas is the food 11. There is something magical **about** Christmas 12. What did you think **about/of** the movie? = Did you like or dislike the movie? 12. What did you like **about** the movie?

9.

criticise sth **about** sb ≠ criticise sb **for** sth

1. It seems as though all he does is criticise everybody ___ everything 2. It seems as though all he does is criticise everything ___ everybody 3. Your carelessness is the thing I dislike ___ you 4. What is it that you hate ___ him most?

Key to 9:

1. It seems as though all he does is criticise everybody **for** everything 2. It seems as though all he does is criticise everything **about** everybody 3. Your carelessness is the thing I dislike **about** you 4. What is it that you hate **about** him most?

10.

about/around sth (*in connection with sth*)

1. There are a lot of questions ___ /___ her motivation 2. He has issues ___ /___ food and dieting

Key to 10:

1. There are a lot of questions **about/around** her motivation 2. He has issues **about/around** food and dieting

11.

be (all) **about** sth (*consist in sth*)

1. Education (all) is ___ a search for meaning 2. This is what our job is ___ 3. A good marriage is all ___ trust 4. The work he does is all ___ helping young people

Key to 11:

1. Education (all) is **about** a search for meaning 2. This is what our job is **about** 3. A good marriage is all **about** trust 4. The work he does is all **about** helping young people

12.

argue **about/over** sth ; controversy **about/over** sb/sth ; phone sb **about/over** sth

1. They quarrel ___ /___ money 2. They quarrel ___ principle, never ___ money 3. He worries ___ /___ her situation 4. Negotiations ___ /___ prices are in hand 5. He is iffy ___ /___ it 6. He is optimistic ___

/___ it 7. He often lies ___ /___ his experience 8. They called me ___ /___ money 9. There is a meeting ___ our salary rise 9. There is some controversy ___ /___ pension funds

Key to 12:

1. They quarrel **about/over** money 2. They quarrel **over** principle, never **about** money 3. He worries **about/over** her situation 4. Negotiations **about/over** prices are in hand 5. He is iffy **about/over** it 6. He is optimistic **about/over** it 7. He often lies **about/over** his experience 8. They called me **about/over** money 9. There is a meeting **about** our salary rise 9. There is some controversy **about/over** pension funds

13.

fantasize **about/over** sth

1. She often fantasizes (fæntəsaɪzɪs) ___ /___ a big house 2. She often sentimentalizes (sentɪ'mentəlaɪzɪs) ___ /___ the past 3. He often generalizes (dʒenrəlaɪzɪs) ___ /___ the current situation 4. They theorize (θiəraɪz) ___ /___ the future 5. They speculate ___ /___ such a possibility 6. They philosophize (fə'lɒsəfaɪz) ___ /___ the past 7. She often emotionalizes (ɪ'məʊʃənəlaɪzɪs) ___ /___ her family

Key to 13:

1. She often fantasizes (fæntəsaɪzɪs) **about/over** a big house 2. She often sentimentalizes (sentɪ'mentəlaɪzɪs) **about/over** the past 3. He often generalizes (dʒenrəlaɪzɪs) **about/over** the current situation 4. They theorize (θiəraɪz) **about/over** the future 5. They speculate **about/over** such a possibility 6. They philosophize (fə'lɒsəfaɪz) **about/over** the past 7. She often emotionalizes (ɪ'məʊʃənəlaɪzɪs) **about/over** her family

14.

be crazy **about/over** sth

be testy **about/over** sth

be touchy **about/over** sth

be **on** a ... kick (used with on to say that someone is doing a lot of something for usually a brief period of time)

1. He is crazy ___ /___ cars 2. She is obsessed ___ /___ fashion 3. He is nuts ___ /___ the Internet 4. He is fussy ___ /___ his health 5. My teacher is testy ___ /___ any interruptions 6. He is touchy ___ /___ any reference to his obesity 7. He's been ___ a health-food kick lately

Key to 14:

1. He is crazy **about/over** cars 2. She is obsessed **about/over** fashion 3. He is nuts **about/over** the Internet 4. He is fussy **about/over** his health 5. My teacher is testy **about/over** any interruptions 6. He is touchy **about/over** any reference to his obesity 7. He's been **on** a health-food kick lately

15.

ask **about** sth *(to say or write something to someone as a way of gaining information : to request an answer to a question)* ≠ ask **for** sth *(to tell someone in the form of a question that you want to be given something or that you want something to happen : to request something)*

be anxious **about/for** sb/sth *(be worried)* ≠ be anxious **for** sth *(desire sth, want sth very much)*

be nostalgic **about** sth *(miss sth - have nice memories of sth; not feel any regret at losing or not having sth)* ≠ be nostalgic **for** sth *(miss sth - feel any regret at losing sth or not having sth)*

1. He asked ___ *(wanted to be given in the form of a question)* orange marmalade 2. He asked ___ *(requested an answer to a question)* orange marmalade 3. I am anxious ___ my exam 4. I am anxious ___ a good mark 5. I am anxious ___ her to get a good mark 6. I am anxious ___ /___ the safety of my kids 7. They were anxious ___ /___ their daughter [=they were worried about what might happen to their daughter] 8. I am nostalgic ___ *(I have nice memories, don't feel any regret about)* my childhood, but what past is past 9. I am nostalgic ___ *(I feel any regret about)* my childhood 10. I am apprehensive ___ /___ my kids travelling alone

Key to 15:

1. He asked **for** orange marmalade 2. He asked **about** orange marmalade 3. I am anxious **about** my exam 4. I am anxious **for** a good mark 5. I am anxious **for** her to get a good mark 6. I am anxious **about/for** the safety of my kids 7. They were anxious **about/for** their daughter [=they were worried about what might happen to their daughter] 8. I am nostalgic **about** my childhood,

but what past is past 9. I am nostalgic **for** my childhood 10. I am apprehensive **about/for** my kids travelling alone

16.

be certain **about/over/of** sth

be hopeful **about/over/of** sth

details **about/over/of** sth

1. He is certain ___ /___ /___ that 2. She is doubtful (daʊtfl) ___ /___ /___ my excuse for being late 3. She has doubts (daʊts) ___ /___ /___ my excuse for being late 4. You should be dubious (dju:biəs) ___ /___ /___ any suggestion he makes 5. She is hopeful ___ /___ /___ the future 6. She is sceptical ___ /___ /___ the future 7. She is sanguine ___ /___ /___ the future 8. She gave me all the details ___ /___ /___ the trip

Key to 16:

1. He is certain **about/over/of** that 2. She is doubtful **about/over/of** my excuse for being late 3. She has doubts **about/over/of** my excuse for being late 4. You should be dubious **about/over/of** any suggestion he makes 5. She is hopeful **about/over/of** the future 6. She is sceptical **about/over/of** the future 7. She is sanguine **about/over/of** the future 8. She gave me all the details **about/over/of** the trip

17.

happy, glad, pleased, delighted, thrilled **about** sth (**about**: because of sth) ≠ pleased, delighted, thrilled **at** sth (seeing or hearing sth) ≠ happy, glad, pleased, delighted, thrilled **for** sb (**for**: together with sb)

relieved **about** sth (**about**: because of sth) ≠ relieved **at** sth (seeing or hearing sth)

be guilty **about** sth (**about**: because of sth) ≠ be guilty **of** sth (**of** a crime or an offence)

be glad **about** sth (be happy because of) ≠ be glad **of** sth (be grateful for sth)

1. He was glad ___ (because of) the concert 2. I'm not too happy ___ (because of) her living alone 3. He is always embarrassed ___ (because of) performing live 4. I was embarrassed ___ (because of) being at the centre of attention 5. He was thrilled ___ (because of) being invited 6. The new restaurant is nothing to get excited ___ 7. She has a terrible complex ___ (because of) red hair 8. He

was guilty ___ injuring the policeman 9. He was guilty ___ causing the accident 10. He was guilty ___ *(felt guilt because of)* the accident 11. She was miserable ___ *(because of)* her flu 12. We took the mickey out of her ___ *(because of)* her new hairstyle 13. I'm glad, happy, pleased, delighted, thrilled ___ *(together with)* them 14. I'm glad, happy, pleased, delighted, thrilled ___ the prospect of seeing the concert 15. I'm glad, happy, pleased, delighted, thrilled ___ *(because of)* the concert 16. Thanks Kate, I'll be glad ___ the help 17. Thanks Kate, I'll be grateful ___ the help 18. I'm glad ___ *(because of)* how things turned out

Key to 17:

1. He was glad **about** the concert 2. I'm not too happy **about** her living alone 3. He is always embarrassed **about** performing live 4. I was embarrassed **about** being at the centre of attention 5. He was thrilled **about** being invited 6. The new restaurant is nothing to get excited **about** 7. She has a terrible complex **about** red hair 8. He was guilty **of** injuring the policeman 9. He was guilty **of** causing the accident 10. He was guilty **about** the accident 11. She was miserable **about** her flu 12. We took the mickey out of her **about** her new hairstyle 13. I'm glad, happy, pleased, delighted, thrilled **for** them 14. I'm glad, happy, pleased, delighted, thrilled **at** the prospect of seeing the concert 15. I'm glad, happy, pleased, delighted, thrilled **about** the concert 16. Thanks Kate, I'll be glad **of** the help 17. Thanks Kate, I'll be grateful **for** the help 18. I'm glad **about** how things turned out

18.

be slow **about/in** sth

1. He was slow ___ /___ doing his work [=he did his work slowly] 2. If you're going to do that, you need to be quick ___ /___ it [=you need to do it quickly] 3. The changes were long ___ coming [=the changes did not happen quickly]

Key to 18:

1. He was slow **about/in** doing his work [=he did his work slowly] 2. If you're going to do that, you need to be quick **about/in** it [=you need to do it quickly] 3. The changes were long **in** coming [=the changes did not happen quickly]

19.

how **about** you = what **about** you? *(used to ask someone to tell you something in response to the thing that you have just said)*

1. Nobody knows how to open it. What ___ you? = How ___ you? 2. A: How are you? B: I am good. What ___ you? = How ___ you? B: Not too bad 3. I like skiing and hiking. How ___ you? = What ___ you? 4. I'm ready to go. How ___ you? = What ___ you? [=are you ready, too?]

Key to 19:

1. Nobody knows how to open it. What **about** you? = How **about** you? 2. A: How are you? B: I am good. What **about** you? = How **about** you? B: Not too bad 3. I like skiing and hiking. How **about** you? = What **about** you? 4. I'm ready to go. How **about** you? = What **about** you? [=are you ready, too?]

20.

how **about** ... = how's **about** ... = what **about** ... *(used to make a suggestion about what could be done)*

1. A: What ___ a game of chess? = How ___ a game of chess? = How's ___ a game of chess? 2. How ___ going for a meal? = How ___ we go for a meal? 3. How ___ [=what ___] driving to the coast for the weekend?

Key to 20:

1. A: What **about** a game of chess? = How **about** a game of chess? = How's **about** a game of chess? 2. How **about** going for a meal? = How **about** we go for a meal? 3. How **about** [=what **about**] driving to the coast for the weekend?

21.

how **about** ... = what **about** ... *(how does that affect someone or something: what should be done about someone or something)*

what **about** ... *(with reproach)*

what **about** = what **of** ... *(and what to do with ... ?) in this context we don't say how **about** ...*

1. A: What ___ the trip to the museum? = How ___ the trip to the museum? B: I'm still planning it 2. What ___ my morning coffee? 3. A: You can throw the newspapers away. B: What ___ the others. = What ___ the others. 4. A: We're all going to the beach. B: = How ___ Kenny? = What ___ Kenny? 5. What ___ [=what ___] those who cannot afford health insurance?

Key to 21:

1. A: What **about** the trip to the museum? = How **about** the trip to the museum? B: I'm still planning it 2. What **about** my morning coffee? 3. A: You can throw the newspapers away. B: What **about** the others. = What **of** the others. 4. A: We're all going to the beach. B: = How **about** Kenny? = What **about** Kenny? 5. What **about** [=what **about**] those who cannot afford health insurance?

22.

what **about** it?

how **about** it?

how **about** that!

1. A: Is that your car? B: Yes what ___ it? 2. A: He scored two goals. How ___ that! B: I'm pleasantly surprised 3. He won again! How ___ that guy! [=isn't that guy amazing/impressive?] 4. Well, how ___ it, are you coming?

Key to 22:

1. A: Is that your car? B: Yes what **about** it? 2. A: He scored two goals. How **about** that! B: I'm pleasantly surprised 3. He won again! How **about** that guy! [=isn't that guy amazing/impressive?] 4. Well, how **about** it, are you coming?

23.

how **about** sth = how **about** giving sth = how's **about** sth (*In this context we don't say what **about***)

1. How ___ loaning me a couple of dollars until payday? 2. How ___ offering me something to drink? 3. How's ___ (offering me) a drink?

Key to 23:

1. How **about** loaning me a couple of dollars until payday? 2. How **about** offering me something to drink? 3. How's **about** (offering me) a drink?

24.

a question **about** what, where, how, when, why ...

question sb **about** what, where, how, when, why ...

a question **about** sth (*a sentence, phrase, or word that asks for information or is used to test someone's knowledge*) ≠ a question **of** sth (*a matter or problem that is being discussed*)

be concerned/be worried/be curious **about** what, where, how, when, why ... (*the preposition **about** cannot be omitted*)

be certain/have no idea (**of**) what, where, how, when, why ... (*the preposition **of** can be omitted*)

1. I worry ___ where she is 2. She is concerned ___ where the kids are 3. I have no idea ___ what happened 4. I am not certain ___ where she is 5. They were questioned ___ where they had been 5. It's a question ___ his good will 6. He asked me many questions ___ my past 7. It's not much of a question ___ if this will happen anymore but rather more of a question ___ exactly when this will happen 8. We're curious ___ why you never called us

Key to 24:

1. I worry **about** where she is 2. She is concerned **about** where the kids are 3. I have no idea **of** what happened 4. I am not certain (**of**) where she is 5. They were questioned **about** where they had been 5. It's a question **of** his good will 6. He asked me many questions **about** my past 7. It's not much of a question **of** if this will happen anymore but rather more of a question **of** exactly when this will happen 8. We're curious **about** why you never called us

25.

be careful (**about/of**) what, where, how, when ... (*the prepositions about and of can be omitted*) ≠

be careful **of** sb ; be careful **of** doing sth ≠ be careful **with** sth

1. He is in a bad mood so be careful ___ /___ what you say to him 2. Be careful ___ thieves, they are everywhere in town 3. Be careful ___ your money, thieves are everywhere in town 4. Be careful ___ /___ where you go in town, thieves are on every corner 5. My secretary is so careful ___ /___ the way

