St. Stephen's Online Writing Center



Practice with Prepositions!

Prepositions are very difficult for non-native English speakers, and it can take many years of English experience to use prepositions naturally. Some prepositions follow rules that are easy to learn, but others simply must be memorized. It is also important to learn which verbs and adverbs do NOT take prepositions.

A List of Common Prepositions:

about	by	outside	according to
above	down	over	because of
across	during	since	by way of
after	except	through	in addition to
against	for	throughout	in front of
around	from	till	in place of
at	in	to	in regard to
before	inside	toward	in spite of
behind	into	under	instead of
below	like	until	on account of
beneath	near	up	out of
beside	of	upon	
besides	off	with	
between	on	without	
beyond	out		

NOUNS and PREPOSITIONS

approval of	fondness for	need for
awareness of	grasp of	participation in
belief in	hatred of	reason for
concern for	hope for	respect for
confusion about	interest in	success in
desire for	love of	understanding of

ADJECTIVES and PREPOSITIONS

afraid of fond of proud of angry at happy about similar to aware of interested in sorry for capable of jealous of sure of careless about made of tired of

familiar with married to worried about

VERBS and PREPOSITIONS

apologize for prepare for give up ask about grow up study for ask for look for talk about look forward to think about belong to look up trust in bring up care for make up work for find out pay for worry about

Use the following resources to test your preposition knowledge:

How are prepositions used in English?

A preposition quiz