Dependent prepositions

Learn each phrase as a unit. sb = somebody; sth = something.
These are common patterns; some words also take other prepositions.

A. Adjectives + prepositions

addicted to
He's addicted to playing online games.
afraid of
She is afraid of flying.
angry with sb / about sth
He was angry with me about the delay.
aware of
Are you aware of the risks?
bad at
I'm bad at remembering names.
bored with
She's bored with her daily routine.
capable of
She is capable of solving the problem.
different from
My answer is different from yours.
disappointed with
We were disappointed with the hotel.
enthusiastic about
They're enthusiastic about the project.
excited about
We're excited about visiting Edinburgh.
familiar with
Are you familiar with this software?
famous for
The town is famous for its castle.
fed up with
I'm fed up with waiting for the bus.
focussed on
She stayed focussed on her work.
good at
He's good at explaining difficult ideas.
guilty of
The driver was found guilty of speeding.
interested in
I'm interested in studying abroad.
jealous of
He was jealous of his sister's success.
keen on
She's keen on playing tennis.
pleased with
We're pleased with the results.
proud of
They're proud of their daughter.
ready for
Are you ready for the exam?
responsible for
Who is responsible for organising it?
satisfied with
I'm satisfied with the service.
scared of
He's scared of spiders.
similar to
Your jacket is similar to mine.
sorry for sth / about sth
I'm sorry for being late / about the mess.
suitable for
This film is suitable for young children.
tired of
I'm tired of doing the same thing.
used to
She's used to getting up early.
worried about
He's worried about losing his job.

B. Verbs and expressions + prepositions

accuse sb of
They accused him of cheating.
agree with sb / on sth
We agree with you on this issue.
apologise to sb for sth
I apologised to her for being rude.
apply for
She's applying for a summer job.
approve of
My parents don't approve of smoking.
believe in
I believe in giving people a second chance.
belong to
This bag belongs to my brother.
blame sb for
Don't blame me for the mistake.
complain to sb about sth
We complained to the manager about the noise.
concentrate on
I need to concentrate on my homework.
cope with
How do you cope with stress?
deal with
She deals with customer complaints.
depend on
The price depends on the size.
dream of / about
She dreams of / about becoming a pilot.
focus on
Let's focus on finding a solution.
insist on
He insisted on paying for dinner.

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Dependent prepositions

B. Verbs and expressions + prepositions (continued)

lead to
Poor sleep can lead to health problems.
listen to
I listen to podcasts on the bus.
look forward to
We're looking forward to seeing you.
object to
They objected to paying an extra charge.
pay for
I'll pay for the tickets.
prevent sb from
The rain prevented us from going out.
protect sb/sth from
This hat protects my face from the sun.
recover from
He's recovering from a knee injury.
rely on
You can rely on me to help.
result in
The storm resulted in several delays.
succeed in
She succeeded in passing her driving test.
suffer from
I suffer from hay fever in spring.
take care of
Can you take care of my cat?
talk to sb about sth
I talked to my teacher about the exam.
thank sb for
We thanked her for helping us.
think about / of
I'm thinking about / of moving house.

C. Nouns + prepositions

access to
All students have access to the library.
advantage of
One advantage of cycling is the low cost.
attitude to / towards
He has a positive attitude to learning.
cause of
What was the cause of the accident?
concern about / over
There is concern about the rising costs.
connection between
There's a connection between sleep and health.
damage to
The storm caused damage to the roof.
demand for
There is a growing demand for nurses.
difference between
What's the difference between these two words?
effect on
Exercise has a positive effect on your mood.
emphasis on
The course places emphasis on speaking.
familiarity with
This job requires familiarity with the system.
fear of
She overcame her fear of heights.
increase in
There has been an increase in prices.
interest in
He has an interest in local history.
knowledge of
She has a good knowledge of French.
lack of
The project failed because of a lack of funds.
need for
There is a need for better public transport.
opposition to
There is strong opposition to the new road.
pride in
She takes pride in her work.
reason for
What's the reason for the delay?
relationship with
I have a good relationship with my boss.
reputation for
The café has a reputation for great food.
responsibility for
He took responsibility for the mistake.
solution to
We need a solution to this problem.
talent for
She has a talent for learning languages.

Using the patterns

After a preposition, use a noun, a pronoun or an -ing form: interested in music / it / learning. This includes to in look forward to, object to and be used to.

Meaning matters: apply for a job, but apply to a company; result in = cause, but result from = be caused by. Read the examples to see how each pattern works.

Other common alternatives include different to (also than), depend/rely upon, knowledge about, excited at and pleased about. The choice depends on context.

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