

**Prepositions** can be vexing for students learning English. “Vexing” is a verb that means puzzling, annoying, worrying. Are prepositions vexing for you?

Use **about**, **above**, **across**, **after** or **against** to complete these sentences.

1. It's \_\_\_\_\_ time you got here!
2. George ran \_\_\_\_\_ the purse snatcher and wrestled him to the street.
3. My uncle lives \_\_\_\_\_ the street from us.
4. The man waited night \_\_\_\_\_ night for her to come out.
5. His blood pressure is \_\_\_\_\_ normal.
6. The lecture was \_\_\_\_\_ global warming.
7. The girls walked \_\_\_\_\_ the street to the playground.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ finishing your dinner, you can have dessert.
9. Please don't lean \_\_\_\_\_ this wall.
10. The reception is \_\_\_\_\_ the wedding.
11. We each have \_\_\_\_\_ ten dollars.
12. Will you hang the mirror \_\_\_\_\_ the sofa for me?
13. He's a liar and a cheat, but I'm sure he's \_\_\_\_\_ murdering someone. (In this sentence the preposition means not capable of.)
14. There is something \_\_\_\_\_ that girl that reminds me of my sister.
15. He was mad at her \_\_\_\_\_ the way she acted at the party.
16. She wasn't very understanding \_\_\_\_\_ my illness.
17. We are excited \_\_\_\_\_ our trip to Paris.
18. He put his desk \_\_\_\_\_ mine.
19. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ ready?
20. Mother called the school to find out \_\_\_\_\_ my sister's behavior.
21. Hurry, the show is \_\_\_\_\_ to start.
22. Whose room is \_\_\_\_\_ yours.
23. The cat was running \_\_\_\_\_ the mouse.
24. We came to see \_\_\_\_\_ the injured child.
25. I dreamed \_\_\_\_\_ going to the moon.

**Prepositions are frequently part of idiomatic expressions.** Read each paragraph than make a sentence with the expression. Teachers correct errors.

**About Face:** go in the opposite direction This expression comes from a military command. If the sergeant calls out “about face”, soldiers turn and face in the opposite direction. But we use this phrase to mean someone changed their mind and chose a different decision. Example: “He did an about face when he learned all the facts.” In other words, he changed his decision. He did the opposite that he first intended.

**Bring About:** to cause Example: The storm brought about lots of looting.

**Come About:** to happen Example: How did it come about that you drove everyone to the airport?

**Get About:** walk around Example: Grandpa gets about well for a ninety year old.

**Aboveboard:** completely honest and open, legal Example: Our negotiations with the company were aboveboard.

**Above the Law:** someone who is exempt from restrictions Example: People in power sometimes believe they are above the law.

**Come Across:** find something unexpectedly Example: I came across this old picture when I cleaned the attic. This can also mean be received by an audience. Example: The speaker wasn't sure how well he came across. The principle came across as intolerant when he said he wouldn't give the kids another chance.

**Get Across:** make something understood Example: I can't get across to my daughters that they must not walk home alone at night.

**Come After:** pursue Example: Mother was afraid that if she called the police, the criminals would come after her.

**Look After:** supervise or take care of Example: Grandma looks after my kids while I work.

**Take After:** be similar to a relative Example: My youngest son takes after his mother. He is always late.

**Up Against:** be faced with opposition, trouble or hard work Example: When he started his own business, he had no idea what he was up against.

**Replace the underlined word with one of the expressions above.**

1-Her children are similar to their father.

2-Her father can no longer walk without a cane.

3-I found your old doll when I was looking through the closet.

4-I wish I could make you understand that I'm not interested in buying this car.

5-This all happened because she refused to leave her home when they evacuated the city.

6-Trying to raise four small children without a husband, she is faced with a lot of problems