Dependent Prepositions – Test 1

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 30

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Choose the best option (A–D) for each question. Only one answer is correct.

Part 1: Adjectives and related nouns

Choose the preposition that correctly completes each sentence.

1. The new manager is not accustomed _____ working such long hours.
   A with **B** to **C** at **D** for
2. Several residents were highly critical _____ the council's decision to close the library.
   A about **B** on **C** of **D** with
3. The scheme is open to anyone who is eligible _____ financial support.
   A for **B** to **C** of **D** at
4. She seemed completely oblivious _____ the fact that everyone was watching her.
   A about **B** with **C** at **D** to
5. These symptoms are characteristic _____ a mild allergic reaction.
   A for **B** of **C** to **D** with
6. The results of the survey were consistent _____ those of earlier studies.
   A to **B** by **C** with **D** for
7. He's not averse _____ a bit of hard work if the reward is right.
   A to **B** from **C** of **D** against
8. Our dependence _____ fossil fuels needs to be reduced significantly.
   A of **B** from **C** to **D** on
9. Young children are particularly susceptible _____ infections during the winter months.
   A for **B** to **C** of **D** at
10. Which sentence is correct?
    A Lina has always been very keen in photography.
    B Lina has always been very keen at photography.
    C Lina has always been very keen on photography.
    D Lina has always been very keen for photography.

Part 2: Verbs and nouns with prepositions

Complete the sentences, find the errors, or choose the correct sentence.

11. The success of the whole project hinges _____ securing enough funding.
    A at **B** in **C** on **D** to
12. The minister refrained _____ commenting on the rumours.
    A from **B** of **C** to **D** against

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13. A poor diet can contribute _____ a wide range of health problems.
A in **B** for **C** at **D** to

14. The long delay was attributed _____ severe weather conditions.
A for **B** to **C** on **D** with

15. There has been a sharp rise _____ the number of people working from home.
A of **B** on **C** in **D** at

16. Her knowledge of local customs gave her a clear advantage _____ the other candidates.
A over **B** on **C** against **D** from

17. Which part of the sentence contains an error? 'The company has invested heavily on renewable energy over the past decade.'
A has invested **B** heavily on
C renewable energy **D** over the past decade

18. Which part of the sentence contains an error? 'The report places great emphasis in the need for better training.'
A The report places **B** great emphasis
C in the need **D** for better training

19. Which sentence is correct?
A Tomás apologised his colleagues for the misunderstanding.
B Tomás apologised for his colleagues to the misunderstanding.
C Tomás apologised with his colleagues for the misunderstanding.
D Tomás apologised to his colleagues for the misunderstanding.

20. I really don't agree _____ people who say that big cities are unsafe.
A to **B** on **C** about **D** with

Part 3: Prepositions in context

Read the text and choose the correct preposition for each numbered gap.

A Second Career at Sixty

When Amara Osei retired from teaching, her friends assumed she would devote herself (1) ___ gardening and travel. Instead, she applied (2) ___ a place on a course in furniture restoration. 'I'd always been fascinated (3) ___ how things are made,' she explains. At first, she struggled to cope (4) ___ the physical demands of the workshop, and she was acutely aware (5) ___ being the oldest student by some distance. Yet her tutors were quick to praise her patience and her attention (6) ___ detail.

Within two years, Amara had set up a small business that specialises (7) ___ repairing antique chairs. Demand (8) ___ her work has grown steadily, largely through word of mouth. She insists that age is no barrier (9) ___ learning, and she now runs evening classes for beginners. 'People often worry that they've left it too late,' she says. 'But curiosity doesn't come with an expiry date. If anything, my years in the classroom have made me more patient (10) ___ students who find things difficult.'

21. Gap (1): '...she would devote herself _____ gardening and travel.'
A for **B** to **C** in **D** with

22. Gap (2): '...she applied _____ a place on a course...'
A to **B** at **C** for **D** with

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23. Gap (3): 'I'd always been fascinated _____ how things are made.'
A at **B** by **C** on **D** to

24. Gap (4): '...she struggled to cope _____ the physical demands...'
A with **B** to **C** for **D** at

25. Gap (5): '...she was acutely aware _____ being the oldest student...'
A about **B** for **C** of **D** with

26. Gap (6): '...her patience and her attention _____ detail.'
A for **B** on **C** at **D** to

27. Gap (7): '...a small business that specialises _____ repairing antique chairs.'
A on **B** in **C** at **D** with

28. Gap (8): 'Demand _____ her work has grown steadily...'
A for **B** of **C** on **D** to

29. Gap (9): '...age is no barrier _____ learning...'
A for **B** against **C** to **D** of

30. Gap (10): '...more patient _____ students who find things difficult.'
A to **B** for **C** at **D** with

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Answer key – Dependent Prepositions – Test 1

1 B	2 C	3 A	4 D	5 B	6 C	7 A	8 D	9 B	10 C
11 C	12 A	13 D	14 B	15 C	16 A	17 B	18 C	19 D	20 D
21 B	22 C	23 B	24 A	25 C	26 D	27 B	28 A	29 C	30 D

Explanations

1. **B** – 'Accustomed' is followed by 'to', and here 'to' is a preposition, so it takes an -ing form.
2. **C** – We say 'critical of' something or someone.
3. **A** – 'Eligible for' is used with a noun, such as support or a benefit.
4. **D** – 'Oblivious to' means not aware of something.
5. **B** – 'Characteristic of' means typical of something.
6. **C** – 'Consistent with' means in agreement with something.
7. **A** – 'Averse to' means opposed to or unwilling to do something.
8. **D** – The noun 'dependence' keeps the same preposition as the adjective 'dependent on'.
9. **B** – 'Susceptible to' means likely to be affected by something.
10. **C** – 'Keen on' means very interested in something.
11. **C** – 'Hinge on' means to depend completely on something.
12. **A** – 'Refrain from' + -ing means to stop yourself from doing something.
13. **D** – 'Contribute to' means to help cause something.
14. **B** – We 'attribute' an effect 'to' a cause.
15. **C** – 'A rise in' is used before the thing that increases.
16. **A** – We say 'an advantage over' other people.
17. **B** – The correct collocation is 'invest in', not 'invest on'.
18. **C** – The correct collocation is 'emphasis on', not 'emphasis in'.
19. **D** – We 'apologise to' a person 'for' something.
20. **D** – We 'agree with' a person or their opinion.
21. **B** – We 'devote yourself to' an activity.
22. **C** – We 'apply for' something we want, such as a place or a job.
23. **B** – 'Fascinated by' means extremely interested in something.
24. **A** – 'Cope with' means to deal successfully with a difficulty.
25. **C** – The adjective 'aware' is followed by 'of'.
26. **D** – The fixed phrase is 'attention to detail'.
27. **B** – 'Specialise in' means to focus on a particular area of work.
28. **A** – The noun 'demand' meaning the need for a product or service takes 'for'.
29. **C** – 'A barrier to' something is an obstacle that prevents it.
30. **D** – We are 'patient with' people.

Notes for teachers: Use this test as a diagnostic or revision task for C1 groups, or after a unit on collocations. It targets common fossilised errors such as 'invest on', 'emphasis in', 'aware about' and 'apologise someone'. As a follow-up, ask students to write their own sentences with the target collocations, or to sort them into groups by preposition.

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