Dependent Prepositions – Worksheet 1

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 36

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Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

Write the missing preposition in each gap.

Example: She insisted ___ paying for dinner. → on

1. The success of the scheme is contingent _____ the council's approval.
2. She was completely oblivious _____ the chaos around her.
3. Rival firms were quick to capitalise _____ the company's mistake.
4. The committee refrained _____ making any comment.
5. His refusal to answer was tantamount _____ an admission of guilt.
6. Many graduates have become disillusioned _____ traditional career paths.
7. The rise in sales is largely attributable _____ the new marketing strategy.
8. From an early age, she showed a real aptitude _____ languages.

Exercise 2: Choose the right adjective

Complete each sentence with an adjective from the box. Use the preposition after the gap to help you. There are two extra words.

WORD BOX

conducive **devoid** **fraught** **indicative** **averse** **akin** **immune** **reliant** **envious**

9. A noisy open-plan office is hardly _____ to deep concentration.
10. The report was completely _____ of any original ideas.
11. The negotiations have been _____ with difficulty from the very start.
12. A sudden loss of appetite can be _____ of a more serious problem.
13. Ahmed is a cautious investor and is generally _____ to taking risks.
14. The feeling was _____ to falling in love – exciting and terrifying at once.
15. Thanks to the vaccine, the children are now _____ to the disease.

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Exercise 3: Find and correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake with a preposition. Write the correct sentence.

Example: She is very keen in photography. → She is very keen on photography.

16. The new policy will have a significant impact for small businesses.

17. She was accused for stealing confidential data.

18. There has been a sharp increase of the number of applicants.

19. He takes great pride on his attention to detail.

20. The decision was based in a simple misunderstanding.

21. Lena has no intention to resigning from her post.

22. The museum is famous with its collection of ancient maps.

23. They are still arguing over who is responsible of the delay.

Exercise 4: Word formation

Use the word in capitals to form a noun that fits the gap.

Example: Her ___ (FOND) for old films is well known. → fondness

24. Her growing _____ (DEPEND) on caffeine worried her doctor.
25. The school has zero _____ (TOLERATE) for bullying.
26. Scientists expressed considerable _____ (SCEPTIC) about the results of the trial.
27. His _____ (ATTEND) to detail makes him an excellent editor.
28. There is no _____ (JUSTIFY) for such rude behaviour.
29. Over the years, she has shown remarkable _____ (DEDICATE) to her students.
30. Critics praised the film's _____ (FAITHFUL) to the original novel.

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Exercise 5: Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each sentence using the word in capitals and the correct preposition. Keep the meaning the same.

Example: Rosa can't stop thinking about her exam. (PREOCCUPIED) → Rosa is preoccupied with her exam.

31. Hard work was the reason for her success, she said. (ATTRIBUTED)

32. Tom didn't notice the danger at all. (OBLIVIOUS)

33. Please don't smoke inside the building. (REFRAIN)

34. The firm depends heavily on foreign investment. (RELIANT)

35. Maria is naturally very good at solving problems. (KNACK)

36. She said firmly that she would pay the bill. (INSISTED)

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Answer key – Dependent Prepositions – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

1. **on**
   Contingent is followed by on or upon.
2. **to**
   Oblivious takes to or, less commonly, of.
3. **on**
   We capitalise on an opportunity or someone else's error.
4. **from**
   Refrain is followed by from + -ing.
5. **to**
   Tantamount is always followed by to.
6. **with**
   We are disillusioned with something.
7. **to**
   Attributable is followed by to.
8. **for**
   We have an aptitude for something.

Exercise 2: Choose the right adjective

9. **conducive**
   Conducive to means creating good conditions for something.
10. **devoid**
    Devoid of means completely lacking something.
11. **fraught**
    Fraught with means full of problems or danger.
12. **indicative**
    Indicative of means being a sign of something.
13. **averse**
    Averse to means strongly disliking or avoiding something.
14. **akin**
    Akin to means similar to.
15. **immune**
    Immune to means protected from or not affected by something.

Exercise 3: Find and correct the mistake

16. **The new policy will have a significant impact on small businesses.**
    The noun impact is followed by on.
17. **She was accused of stealing confidential data.**
    We accuse someone of doing something.
18. **There has been a sharp increase in the number of applicants.**
    An increase in refers to what is growing; increase of is used with the amount (an increase of 10%).
19. **He takes great pride in his attention to detail.**
    The expression is take pride in.
20. **The decision was based on a simple misunderstanding.**
    Based is followed by on.
21. **Lena has no intention of resigning from her post.**
    Use intention of + -ing or intention to + infinitive, not to + -ing.
22. **The museum is famous for its collection of ancient maps.**
    We say famous for something.
23. **They are still arguing over who is responsible for the delay.**
    Responsible is followed by for.

Exercise 4: Word formation

24. **dependence**
    The verb 'depend' becomes the noun 'dependence' or 'dependency', and both are correct here because both combine with 'on' to mean a need for or reliance on something like caffeine.
25. **tolerance**
    Zero tolerance for/of is a fixed collocation.
26. **scepticism**
    The noun scepticism is often followed by about.
27. **attention**
    Attention to detail is a common collocation.
28. **justification**
    Justification is followed by for.
29. **dedication**
    Dedication is followed by to.
30. **faithfulness**
    Faithfulness is followed by to.

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Exercise 5: Rewrite the sentences

31. **She attributed her success to hard work.**
    The pattern 'attribute something to a cause' means to say that something is the result of that cause, so 'She attributed her success to (her) hard work' keeps the meaning, and the verb itself shows that she is the one giving the reason.
32. **Tom was completely oblivious to the danger.**
    'Oblivious to' and 'oblivious of' are both correct and mean completely unaware of something, and an intensifier such as 'completely', 'totally', 'entirely' or 'utterly' can be added to express the idea of 'not at all'.
33. **Please refrain from smoking inside the building.**
    Refrain from is followed by the -ing form.
34. **The firm is heavily reliant on foreign investment.**
    Reliant is followed by on.
35. **Maria has a natural knack for solving problems.**
    'Have a knack for/of + -ing' means to have a natural ability to do something well, so both prepositions are correct, and an adjective like 'natural' or 'real' can be added to reflect 'naturally very good'.
36. **She insisted on paying the bill.**
    Insist on is followed by the -ing form.

Notes for teachers: Start with Exercise 1 as a quick diagnostic, then let pairs compare answers before checking. Typical mistakes include confusing increase in/of, impact on/for, accused of/for, and using to + infinitive instead of preposition + -ing (refrain from doing, insist on doing). As a follow-up, ask learners to write a short paragraph about a recent challenge using at least six of the target expressions.

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