

Level I – Preposition Combinations

FOR THE MIDTERM

***REMEMBER: PREPOSITIONS
ARE TYPICALLY FOLLOWED BY
NOUNS OR GERUNDS!
EXAMPLES:**

**I AM THINKING ABOUT SWIMMING.
I AM THINKING ABOUT MARRIAGE.**

1. **To ask (someone) for (something):** to speak or write to someone because you want them to give you something. To request.
*-The waiter just came. I asked him for more water.
-I asked my teacher for some advice.*

To ask for (something): to speak or write to someone because you want them to give you something. To request.
*-Sarah just asked for some help.
-I just asked for the check.*

To ask (someone): to say that you want someone to come and speak to you.
*-Gina just asked for the doctor.
-I just asked for the waiter again.*

2. **To explain (something) to (someone):** to provide a description of information to someone.
*-Bertha is explaining the accident to her mother. Her mother does not look amused.
-Explain your situation to me.*
3. **To borrow (something) from (someone):** to receive and use something from someone else with the promise to give it back to them later.
*-Lisa borrowed \$100 from her sister, Maria. She has until the end of the month to pay her sister back.
-Did you borrow that sweater from your mother?*
4. **To lend (something) to (someone):** to give someone something for a short period of time with the expectation that they will give it back to you later. If you lend something to someone, they borrow it from you.
*-Maria lent \$100 to her sister, Lisa. Lisa has until the end of the month to pay Maria back.
-Did your mother lend that sweater to you?*

To lend (someone) (something): to give someone something for a short period of time with the expectation that they will give it back to you later. If you lend something to someone, they borrow it from you.
*-Diana lent me \$1,000 so that I could buy some clothes for school.
-Could you please lend me your eraser?*

5. **To depend (up)on:** If one thing or person depends on another thing or a person, it is changed or affected by the other thing.
*-Many students depend on their grammar books for success.
-Children depend on their parents for survival.
-Do you depend upon anybody when you are in trouble?*

FOR THE FINALS

6. **To listen to (someone / something):** → **This is when there is an object after “listen.”** To pay attention to what someone tells you or what something is communicating.
-Go ahead and speak your mind. I'm listening. → No object, so no need for “to” with an object. It is implied that the person is listening to the speaker.
-Stew can't hear you. He is listening to his MP3 player.
-Patrick has problems in his marriage. His wife says that he never listens to her.
7. **To wait for (someone / something):** To delay doing something until someone arrives or until something else happens.
-We are waiting for Tom to arrive before we can start the meeting.
-I am finished with my doctor's appointment, but I am just waiting for the results of my tests.
8. **To steal (something) from:** To take something that belongs to someone or something else without permission.
-John stole \$100 from his sister's dresser. He is such a weasel.
-John stole \$100 from his sister. He is such a weasel.
***A robber stole me yesterday. → This means that the robber took you and didn't return you. In this case, “steal” is like “kidnap” or “abduct.” Be careful with this.
9. **To rob (someone) of (something):** To take money or property illegally from a person or a place, often using threats or violence.
-A masked man robbed me of my iPod yesterday.
-Do not ever let anybody rob you of your dignity.
- To rob (someone):** To take money or property illegally from a person or a place, often using threats or violence. In this structure, the focus is on the victim and not the item(s) that were robbed.
-A thief robbed my brother in the park yesterday.
-Has somebody ever robbed you?
- To rob (someone) at (gunpoint / knifepoint):** To be robbed because a person is holding a knife or a gun at you.
-A masked Liga fan robbed my cousin at knifepoint yesterday.
-I was robbed at gunpoint yesterday.
10. **To spend (something) on (something):** 1. To use money to pay for things. 2. The amount of time one uses to complete something.
-Fulbright students spend a lot of money on their grammar books and classes.
-Marcelo spent \$500 on his new shoes.
-Do you spend a lot of time on homework?
- To spend (something) with (someone):** To stay somewhere or do something with someone.
-Will you be spending Christmas with your family?
-I spend the weekend with my girlfriend.