

LEVEL IV PREPOSITION COMBINATIONS

Note: Preposition combinations are also called phrasal verbs.

FOR THE MIDTERM

Active/Physical States: those associated with living beings

1. be dressed in: to be clothed
The bride **was dressed in** white for her wedding.
For Halloween, we **were** all **dressed in** funny costumes.
2. be engaged to: to have an agreement to marry someone
My sister got **engaged to** Charlie last night.
John **is engaged to** Susan. They are getting married next month.
3. be finished with: ended, with no hope of continuing
I **am** finally **finished with** typing up this report. Now I can go home.
I need those scissors when you **are finished with** them.
4. be friendly with: acting as a friend
My mother taught me **to** always **be friendly with** everyone because you might meet them again.
Even though Megan does not like her roommate, she **is friendly with** her to avoid problems.
5. get involved in: to be part of a group or situation
I do not like **to get involved** in my students' private lives.
When I was in college, I avoided **getting involved in** any dangerous situations.
6. be married to: to have a husband or wife
Mary obviously enjoys **being married to** Brian. You can tell from the way she looks at him.
Oscar **was married to** Beth for 12 years before they got a divorce.
7. be polite to: showing good manners
Children should appreciate their elders and **be polite to** them.
The waitress **was not polite to** us, so we will not give her a tip.

Physical Actions

- 1a. apply to: destination of the application
Sally is **applying to** four different universities this year.
My brother **applied to** that company a week ago.
- 1b. apply for: reason for the application
My friend wishes he had **applied for** that job. Now it is too late because the position has been filled.
How many scholarships did you **apply for**?
- 2a. argue with: the person with whom you are arguing
I wish you would stop **arguing with** me!
Howard **argues with** his boss a lot. Someday, he will get fired.
- 2b. argue about: the subject of the argument
We should not **argue about** money. It is not something to fight about.
He **argued about** the way that his mother treated him.
- 3a. arrive in: in general, used for arrivals at some geographical location, such as a city or a country
We **arrived in** Miami just before the storm.
The shipment **arrived in** Germany yesterday. It was a day late.
- 3b. arrive at: used for arrivals at some location that is not a city or a country
I **arrived at** the party two hours late. The hostess was mad at me.
It is important to **arrive at** appointments on time.
4. consist of: containing
The exam **consists of** four sections, which are listening, writing, reading, and grammar.
A mojito **consists of** white rum, sugar, mint, water, and ice.
5. contribute to: to add your efforts to a situation or to give money to a cause, such as a charity
John **contributed to** the meeting by making a presentation about the budget.
My family has always **contributed to** various charities.
6. count on: to depend on someone, something
Part of a good relationship is being able to **count on** each other, no matter what.
The teacher **counts on** your daily attendance in class.

- cover with: to place something on, over, in front of
There was a stain on the carpet, so I **covered** it **with** the couch.
Those nachos were **covered with** delicious, melted cheese.
- get divorced from: to end a marriage
During his life, he **got divorced from** five women. He must have been an interesting husband!
It is much harder **to get divorced from** someone than it is to get married.

FOR THE FINAL

- escape from: to find a way out; get out from somewhere
How did those convicts **escape from** jail?
No matter how hard the students might try, they cannot **escape from** having to take final exams.
- excel in: to be very good at something
Mark decided to apply for a basketball scholarship because he **excels in** that sport.
Although Sylvia is shy about speaking, she **excels in** writing.
- fight for: defend one's beliefs or participation in something
Many people have died while **fighting for** their country or beliefs.
Keeping a relationship together is not always easy. Sometimes, you need to **fight for** it by compromising or making changes.
- hide from: to put out of sight or keep out of sight; keep secret
The guns **were hidden from** the children to protect them from harm.
After David robbed the bank, he tried **to hide from** the police.
Mary **hid** her feelings **from** her husband, which created tension between them.
- participate in: to take part in something; to share in something
It is important **to participate in** class to improve your speaking skills.
Because Hank loves to be active, he **participates in** four different clubs at school.
- pray for: strongly hope for something
You should **pray for** a miracle if you want to win the lottery.
Cynthia's mother is very sick. We have been **praying for** her every day.
- prevent from: to keep something from happening; stop someone from doing
You can **prevent** accidents **from happening** by driving slowly and observing all the traffic laws.
Peggy's illness **prevented** her **from** going to my birthday party.

8. prohibit from: to forbid someone to do something by law or rule
The law in the United States **prohibits** people under the age of 21 **from** buying alcohol.
Women who are pregnant **are prohibited from** going on this ride.
9. protect from: to keep something safe by guarding or covering it
Parents try to **protect** their children **from** all dangers in the world.
You can **protect** your skin **from** the sun by using sun block.
10. provide with, for: to supply something that is usually needed or useful
I believe a good parent must always **provide for** his children's necessities.
All students are **provided with** a grammar book and a reader for each level.
11. recover from: to return to the proper state of health, ability, strength, etc.; to get back or regain
After being sick for three weeks, Mary finally **recovered from** her illness.
The divers **recovered** the treasure **from** the sunken ship.
12. rely on: to trust in or depend on someone or something
Unfortunately, you cannot always **rely on** your parents to give you money whenever you want it.
I **rely on** the bus being on time in order to get to work on time.
13. rescue from, by: to save someone or something from harm or danger
My father **rescued** the cat **from** the tree in which it had been for three days.
The drowning child was **rescued by** the life guard.
14. respond to: to answer; to react
You didn't **respond to** my invitation, so I didn't know that you were coming to my party.
Unfortunately, my mother didn't **respond to** the treatments, and she is still in the hospital.