

## LEVEL V PREPOSITION COMBINATIONS

Note: Preposition combinations are also called phrasal verbs.

### FOR THE MIDTERM

#### Physical Actions

1. stare at: to look fixedly at something or someone with wide open eyes  
People often **stare at** my friend Sue because she looks different.  
I **stared at** the math problem, hoping to figure out the answer.
2. stop (someone) from: to cause someone or something to no longer move or continue an activity; to prevent  
My parents always **stopped** my sister and me **from** fighting when we were little.  
I don't care what you say; nothing can **stop** me **from** marrying Charles because I love him.
3. subscribe to: to make a payment to receive a product regularly  
I am interested in wine-making, so I **subscribed to** a magazine all about it.  
To keep up on current news, Bill **subscribed to** *the New York Times*.
4. succeed in: to reach an aim or goal in something  
If you try, you can **succeed in** whatever you want.  
Paul's rice is always hard! He has never **succeeded in** finding the right way to cook it.
5. substitute for: a person or thing acting as another  
If you have brown sugar, you can **substitute** it **for** the same amount of white sugar.  
The teacher is going to be absent. Someone needs to **substitute for** her class today.
6. take advantage of: to use something or someone for your benefit  
If you have the opportunity to study in France, you should **take advantage of** it.  
George **took advantage of** me. He took my money, stayed in my house all weekend, and ate all my food.
7. take care of: assume responsibility of someone or something; protect; maintain  
My boss told me not to worry about calling the client. He said that he would **take care of** it after lunch.  
I always **take good care of** my dog. I take her for walks every day and give her health food.

8. vote for: to express one's choice officially from among the possibilities offered  
Let's **vote for** what topic we should debate on.  
Which candidate did you **vote for** in the last election?

### **Mental / Verbal Actions**

1. accuse (someone) of: to charge someone with wrong-doing  
Don't **accuse** me **of** doing something you did not see me do!  
O.J. Simpson **was accused of** having murdered his wife.
2. agree with: share the same opinion (\*\*alternative: be in agreement with)  
You have a good point, but I just don't **agree with** you.  
Nick is so pathetic! He always **agrees with** whatever his boss says even if it is something ridiculous.  
\*\*We are not in agreement with your plan to assassinate the president.
3. approve of: to be in agreement with / to like a person  
It is important to me that my mom **approves of** my boyfriend.  
I don't **approve of** your watching television all day.
4. believe in: to consider to be true; to trust someone or something  
Do you **believe in** God?  
Harry really trusts his wife; he **believes in** her no matter what she does.
5. apologize for: to say one is sorry (\*\*alternative: apologize to [someone] for [something])  
After he calmed down, John **apologized for** yelling at his wife.  
She **apologized for** stepping on my foot.  
\*\*She apologized to me for stepping on my foot.
6. blame (someone) for: to give responsibility for doing something bad  
The children must understand that they are not to **blame for** their parents' divorce.  
I always **blamed** my little brother **for** anything that went wrong.
7. care about, for: to be worried (about); to nurse or attend to  
Since my parents died when I was young, my grandmother **cared for** me.  
Sam **cares** a lot **about** Maggie, but he is not ready for a relationship with her.  
Maggie **cares** a lot **for** Sam, and she is ready for a relationship.

## FOR THE FINAL

1. compare (something/something) to, with: to judge one thing against another in order to likeness or difference  
If you **compare** British football **with** American football, you will find many differences.  
Please don't **compare** me **with** my sister. I already know that we are very different.
2. complain about: express feelings of annoyance  
Teachers usually can't stand it when their students **complain about** homework or quizzes.  
Don't just **complain about** your job. Go find a new one!
3. decide (up)on:  
At 6 PM every night, the EcoVia **is crowded with** people going home from work.  
The stadium **was crowded with** thousands of crazy soccer fans last Sunday.
4. distinguish (someone/something) from: to set apart or mark as different  
You can **distinguish** my desk **from** Larry's desk because my desk is very neat, and his desk is very messy.  
Sometimes it is difficult to **distinguish** me **from** my twin sister.
5. dream about/of: to have a series of mental images or thoughts during sleep; to wish or hope for something  
Rich **dreams of** becoming a doctor. It is all he wants to do.  
Since my grandmother died, I have **dreamed about** her almost every night.
6. depend (up)on: to trust; to be supported by someone or something  
Pamela has never lived independently; she has always **depended on** her parents.  
You should buy a reliable car that you can **depend on**.
7. feel like: to have wish or desire for something or some activity  
We could go to the movies, go to a bar, or just hang out at home. What do you **feel like** doing?  
I **feel like** a big bowl of chocolate ice cream right now.
8. forget about: to fail to remember something  
I am sorry that I **forgot about** going to your piano recital.  
Phil asked Sara to **forget about** what he had said last night because he was drunk.
9. forgive (someone) for (something): to say or feel that one is no longer angry or upset  
Angela knew that she could never **forgive** her boyfriend **for** cheating on her.  
Once I heard his excuse, I **forgave** him **for** being late.

10. hope for: to wish, expect, and desire something  
Even though Carlos didn't study for the quiz, he **hoped for** a passing grade.  
My grandfather taught me to try to always be optimistic and always **hope for** the best.
11. insist (up)on: to make demands repeatedly; to require  
Hank **insists on** his girlfriend's being honest with him.  
Teachers at Fulbright **insist upon** their students' being on time to class.
12. look forward to: to have pleasant expectations for a future event  
I have been working so hard lately. I am really **looking forward to** my vacation.  
Rachel is depressed. She feels she has nothing **to look forward to** in her life.
13. object to: to be against something; to have negative feelings  
Her mother **objected to** her going out the night before a big exam.  
My mom and I are always arguing. She **objects to** everything I want to do.
14. thank (someone) for (something): to express gratefulness (to someone) for something  
The staff was **thanked for** all of their hard work.  
I **thanked** Marcy **for** helping me with my project.