



## Prepositions

This handout is about prepositions that often go wrong, both in students' speaking and writing. The phrases and sentences here were collected in the Advanced Oral Proficiency Class, which focuses on topics from Literature and Linguistics. There are three parts:

- (1) Gap-filling task
- (2) The right preposition
- (3) One or two tips

You can use Part (1) to test yourself then look at Part (2) for the right answers.

### (1) Gap-filling task

What is the right preposition to fill the gap?

This is a good example ..... synonymy

An introduction ..... linguistics

In contrast ..... Dickens

This had consequences ..... her future writing

Despite ..... her growing fame

He was committed ..... an asylum

I would like to concentrate ..... this point

She is not included ..... this list

He is searching ..... a job

We don't like wars, but what can we do ..... them?

She was not content ..... her life

If we take a look ..... modern society

This word can be replaced ..... another

It's difficult to say something intelligent and convincing ..... this point

There's a scene in the film "Psycho" when the woman is ..... the shower

What do you understand ..... language change?

This is typical ..... contemporary research

She is an expert ..... psycholinguistics

She specialises ..... dialects

I would like to focus ..... language acquisition

I would like to put the emphasis ..... language acquisition

Acquisition is not the same ..... language learning

Acquisition is a much more interesting process ..... language learning

This speaker is not representative ..... a whole class of speakers

As a consequence ..... this

It was written ..... an expert

It can be found ..... the shelf in the library

That was very interesting, but I still have some questions ..... you  
..... one of the topics.

This is a clear sign ..... language change

Can you give an instance ..... this?

We have discussed ..... it already

German is on the verge ..... radical change

I would like to give a brief introduction ..... his work .....  
language change

Is it possible to differentiate ..... A and B?

## (2)The right preposition

This is a good example of synonymy

An introduction to linguistics

In contrast to Dickens

This had consequences for her future writing

Despite her growing fame

He was committed to an asylum

I would like to concentrate on this point

She is not included in this list

He is searching for a job

We don't like wars, but what can we do about them?

She was not content with her life

If we take a look at modern society

This word can be replaced by another

It's difficult to say something intelligent and convincing about / on this point

There's a scene in the film "Psycho" when the woman is in the shower.

What do you understand by language change?

This is typical of contemporary research

She is an expert on psycholinguistics

She specialises in dialects

I would like to focus on language acquisition

I would like to put the emphasis on language acquisition

Acquisition is not the same as language learning

Acquisition is a much more interesting process than language learning

This speaker is not representative of a whole class of speakers

As a consequence of this

It was written by an expert

It can be found on the shelf in the library

That was very interesting, but I still have some questions for you on one of the topics.

This is a clear sign of language change

Can you give an instance of this?

We have discussed it already

German is on the verge of radical change

I would like to give a brief introduction to his work on language change

Is it possible to differentiate between A and B?

### **(3) Tips**

If there are any of these you had problems with you can

- (1) check them in the Cobuild
- (2) mark the phrase with a highlighting pen e.g. take a look at or an example of or discuss it
- (3) say it out loud several times
- (4) convince yourself it is right (e.g. if you have been saying „diskutieren ueber etwas“ in German all your life, it can be quite hard to convince yourself that “discuss something“ is correct English.)
- (5) put the phrase in a sentence that makes sense to you and use it

These tips may look obvious or childish, but they are useful. The point is that working through this list once will not get the correct preposition into your memory and onto your tongue when you need it. There has to be some effort made, and not just once.

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