

Vocabulary

14^d

prepositional phrases

We often use prepositions in common phrases where little variation is possible. Some prepositions go with groups of similar words:

at – **at** breakfast, **at** lunch, **at** dinner, **at** supper
for – **for** example, **for** instance
in – **in** a dress, **in** pyjamas, **in** a pair of jeans,
in a skirt, **in** uniform
on – **on** e-mail, **on** the phone

- Prepositions can combine to make compound phrases:

out of date, **out of** fashion

- Words with related meanings often go with different prepositions:

in cash / dollars – **by** credit card
on earth – **in** the world
by accident – **on** purpose
at the bottom – **in** the bottom left-hand corner
at the door – **on** the phone
by car – **on** foot
on holiday – **at** work
in a loud voice – **at** the top of his voice

Here are more common phrases with prepositions:

at	by	for	in	on	out of
at all times	by accident	for a change	in conclusion	on behalf of	out of order
at first sight	by heart	for ages	in the west	on condition that	out of practice
at the moment	by chance	for breakfast	in control	on no account	out of favour
at the age of	by mistake	for fear of	in danger	on my own	out of the woods
at the beginning	by the way	for fun / pleasure	in favour of	on purpose	out of the way
at breakfast	by bus / train	for good	in general	on second thoughts	out of touch
at the bottom of	by sea / land / air	for granted	in other words	on the whole	out of work
at the bus stop	by example	for ever	in time	on business	out of breath
at sea	by sight	for luck	in cash	on a diet	out of control
at the corner	by means of	for life	in a uniform	on arrival	out of danger
at dawn	by no means	for nothing	in a dress	on average	out of date
at last	by cheque	for ever	in haste	on foot	out of doors
at the door	day by day	for sale	in German	on the other hand	out of fashion
at the end	by Beethoven	for short	in pencil	on line	out of luck
at first	by air mail	for a visit	in a group	on duty	out of print
at once	by e-mail	for a walk	in addition (to)	on fire	out of sight
at home	by fax / phone	for a while	in answer (to)	on horseback	out of tune
at arm's length	by far	for now	in future	on the left / right	out of reach
at least	by the rules	for your birthday	in general	on the floor	out of earshot
at the same time	by the arm	for better or worse	in the news	on the phone	out of money
at daybreak	by telepathy	for my sake	in pairs	on the screen	out of time
at work	by hand	for the moment	in a loud voice	on holiday	out of pocket