Dependent Prepositions — Worksheet

30 exercises · Level B1–B2 · Answer key on the last page Free for classroom use

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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Choose the correct option (a–d) for each gap or question. Check yourself with the answer key on the last page.

1. Are you interested _____ old films? There's a festival next month.
   a) in b) on c) for d) about

2. My uncle is very good _____ fixing bikes, so he always repairs mine.
   a) in b) to c) of d) at

3. My sister is afraid _____ big dogs, so she always crosses the road when she sees one.
   a) from b) of c) before d) at

4. Her parents were very proud _____ her when she passed her driving test.
   a) on b) at c) of d) with

5. In our office, Maria is responsible _____ ordering paper and coffee.
   a) for b) of c) on d) to

6. Your new phone is very similar _____ mine — I nearly took it by mistake.
   a) with b) to c) as d) from

7. Our plans for the weekend depend _____ the weather.
   a) on b) of c) from d) to

8. My grandfather listens _____ the news every morning while he has breakfast.
   a) at b) to c) — d) in

9. I'm waiting _____ an important phone call, so I can't go out yet.
   a) for b) — c) to d) at

10. Excuse me, does this umbrella belong _____ you?
    a) of b) to c) at d) for

11. I completely agree _____ you — the new design is much better.
    a) — b) at c) with d) of

12. Who paid _____ the drinks last night? I'd like to pay them back.
    a) — b) for c) on d) to

13. What are you thinking _____? You look worried.
    a) at b) to c) for d) about

14. My mother often suffers _____ headaches when she doesn't sleep enough.
    a) of b) by c) from d) on

15. What was the reason _____ the delay? Our train left forty minutes late.

a) of b) to c) about d) for

16. Last year there was a 20% increase _____ the number of cyclists on our roads.

a) of b) at c) in d) for

17. Nobody has found a solution _____ the parking problem near our office yet.

a) on b) at c) with d) to

18. Thank you so much _____ me with my suitcase.

a) for help b) to help c) for helping d) for to help

19. I'm tired _____ pasta every day — can we cook something different tonight?

a) of eat b) of eating c) to eat d) to eating

20. After months of searching, they finally succeeded _____ a cheap place to live.

a) to find b) in find c) on finding d) in finding

21. She apologised _____ her teacher _____ arriving late.

a) to … for b) — … for c) to … of d) at … for

22. We discussed _____ the plan for an hour and then talked _____ other things.

a) about … about b) about … — c) — … about d) — … —

23. Lucy is married _____ a pilot. She married _____ him three years ago.

a) to … — b) with … — c) to … with d) — … to

24. I asked _____ my neighbour _____ some help with the heavy boxes.

a) to … for b) for … for c) — … for d) — … —

25. We watched _____ the match on TV, then looked _____ the photos from our trip.

a) at … at b) — … — c) at … — d) — … at

26. Which sentence is correct?

a) Can you explain me this rule?
b) Can you explain this rule to me?
c) Can you explain this rule me?
d) Can you explain me about this rule?

27. Which sentence is correct?

a) I can't concentrate in my homework with all this noise.
b) I can't concentrate to my homework with all this noise.
c) I can't concentrate on my homework with all this noise.
d) I can't concentrate at my homework with all this noise.

28. Which sentence is correct?

a) Thank you for the invitation to your birthday party.
b) Thank you for the invitation on your birthday party.
c) Thank you for the invitation of your birthday party.
d) Thank you for the invitation in your birthday party.

29. Which sentence is correct?

a) She's capable to run the shop on her own.
b) She's capable for running the shop on her own.
c) She's capable of run the shop on her own.
d) She's capable of running the shop on her own.

30. Which sentence is correct?

a) She didn't answer to my question.
b) She didn't answer my question.
c) She didn't answer on my question.
d) She didn't answer at my question.

Answer Key

Dependent Prepositions · Explanations are shortened — the full interactive version is at gramvoy.com/exercises/dependent-prepositions/

1. a) in
Interested takes in before a noun or -ing: interested in old films.

2. d) at
A skill takes good at: good at fixing bikes, good at chess.

3. b) of
Afraid takes of before the cause of the fear: afraid of big dogs.

4. c) of
Proud takes of before the person or thing: proud of her, proud of my work.

5. a) for
Responsible takes for before a task: responsible for ordering paper, and before people in your care.

6. b) to
Similar takes to: similar to mine, similar to his old car.

7. a) on
Depend takes on: depend on the weather, It depends on you.

8. b) to
Listen needs to before what you hear: listen to the news, listen to music.

9. a) for
Wait takes for before what you expect: wait for a call, wait for the bus.

10. b) to
Belong takes to + the owner: This bag belongs to me.

11. c) with
To share an opinion, agree takes with + the person: I agree with you.

12. b) for
You pay for the thing you buy: pay for the drinks, pay for a ticket.

13. d) about
Think takes about for what is on your mind: What are you thinking about?

14. c) from
Suffer takes from before an illness or a problem: suffer from stress.

15. d) for
Reason takes for before what it explains: the reason for the delay.

16. c) in
The thing that grows follows in: an increase in the number.

17. d) to
Solution usually takes to before the problem: a solution to the parking problem, like an answer to a question (for is also possible).

18. c) for helping
Thank you takes for + -ing: thank you for helping, thanks for coming.

19. b) of eating
Tired of means fed up, and a verb after of takes -ing: tired of eating pasta.

20. d) in finding
Succeed takes in + -ing: succeeded in finding, succeed in passing.

21. a) to … for
Apologise takes to + the person and for + the reason.

22. c) — … about
Discuss takes its topic directly, but talk needs about: talk about it.

23. a) to … —
The adjective married takes to: married to a pilot.

24. c) — … for
Ask takes the person directly and for + the thing you want.

25. d) — … at
Watch takes its object directly: watch the match, watch a film.

26. b) Can you explain this rule to me?
Explain takes the thing first, then to + the person: explain this rule to me.

27. c) I can’t concentrate on my homework with all this noise.
Concentrate takes on: concentrate on my homework.

28. a) Thank you for the invitation to your birthday party.
Invitation takes to before the event: an invitation to your party.

29. d) She’s capable of running the shop on her own.
Capable takes of + -ing: capable of running the shop.

30. b) She didn’t answer my question.
The verb answer takes its object directly: answer my question.