

Practice with Complex Prepositions

Directions for the teacher:

STEP 1 – Do Task A and B as a class.

Answers to Task A.

1. There was one inaccurate fact in the report, but aside from that it was very informative.
2. I'll ask if we can meet on Thursday instead of Friday.
3. This unexpected change wouldn't usually be a problem, but on top of everything else right now it's going to be hard to handle.
4. I think it would be better to hold a private conversation in a conference room rather than an elevator.
5. I'm available every day next week except for Thursday.
6. The cost was higher than expected because in addition to the base price there were several add-on fees.

Challenge the students to find prepositions with similar meanings: *aside from/except for, on top of/ in addition to, rather than/instead of.*

Answers to Task B.

1. in light of
2. in spite of
3. thanks to
4. in return for
5. regardless of (Also possible: in spite of)
6. as opposed to
7. according to
8. outside of

STEP 2 – Have students work in pairs or independently. Answers may be shared as a class.

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A. Underline the prepositions. There are both one-word and complex prepositions.

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B. Choose the best preposition to complete each sentence. More than one answer may be possible.

thanks to	according to	as opposed to	regardless of
in return for	in spite of	outside of	in light of

1. _____ the recent budget cuts, we won't be hiring anyone new for a while.
2. We were able to stay under budget _____ one or two unexpected expenses.
3. _____ the new scheduling policy, I have the flexibility to leave work early and finish tasks at home. I really appreciate this change.
4. Sometimes colleagues offer assistance _____ a future favor. It's understood when somebody says, "I owe you one."
5. Keith chose to leave his job _____ everyone's warnings.
6. There are times when spending money _____ saving money is what a company needs to do.

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7. _____ Ben, the meeting was very uneventful. He said nothing important happened.

8. _____ work, most people call me Mack, not Mackenzie.

C. Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1. Aside from _____, working in the city is exciting and interesting.
2. The president of a company has a stressful job. On top of everything else, the president has to _____.
3. Except for _____, many professional athletes can make a lot of money.
4. Regardless of the expense, many people still _____.
5. In light of _____, many businesses are changing their policies on _____.
6. Outside of work, it's perfectly fine to _____.
7. Thanks to _____, most modern workspaces are comfortable to work in.
8. It's acceptable to ask for _____ in return for _____.