

# 88 Adjective or noun + preposition

The UK's main **hope of** success in the Olympic sailing event lies with Lucy McGregor, Annie Lush and Ally Martin (pictured).



## 1 Adjective + preposition

	ADJECTIVE + PREPOSITION	EXAMPLES
feelings	afraid/scared/terrified + <i>of</i> proud/ashamed/jealous + <i>of</i> annoyed/worried/upset + <i>about</i>	Sally is <b>terrified of</b> spiders. I'm really <b>ashamed of</b> your behaviour. I'm not really <b>upset about</b> my team's results.
	delighted/bored/pleased + <i>with/at/by</i> surprised/amazed/shocked + <i>at/by</i>	I was <b>bored by</b> the lesson. We weren't <b>pleased with</b> the builders' progress. Aren't you <b>shocked at</b> the violence in the film? I was really <b>surprised by</b> Samantha's news.
behaviour	nice/kind/unfriendly/mean + <i>to</i>	She's very <b>kind to</b> animals.
ability	good/bad/excellent + <i>at</i> capable/incapable + <i>of</i>	Nathan is <b>excellent at</b> painting. Julia is <b>incapable of</b> making a decision.
similarity	similar/identical + <i>to</i> different + <i>from/to</i>	That car is very <b>similar to</b> your last one. Spoken Portuguese is <b>different from</b> Spanish.
likes	keen + <i>on</i> , fond + <i>of</i> interested/involved + <i>in</i>	Lisa is <b>keen on</b> tracing her family tree. You aren't very <b>involved in</b> that book, are you?
other	full/short/tired + <i>of</i> ready/fit/famous/late/sorry + <i>for</i>	Gary can't come – he's <b>short of</b> money. He has only recently become <b>fit for</b> the competition.

More on preposition + *-ing* form ➤ Unit 14.1

⚠ Some adjectives (e.g. *good*, *bad*) can have more than one preposition, with different meanings, for example

- ability: *She's quite good at working out maths problems.*
- an advantage: *Doing regular exercise is good for you.*
- behaviour: *Salima is very good to her mother – she does all her shopping.*

## 2 Noun + preposition

	NOUN + PREPOSITION	EXAMPLES
needs	demand/request/need/wish + <i>for</i>	There's a great <b>demand for</b> cheap houses.
movement	rise/fall/increase/decrease + <i>in</i>	The bank has announced a <b>rise in</b> interest rates.
response	reaction/response/solution/ attitude + <i>to</i>	Do you get a severe <b>reaction to</b> insect bites? We need to find a <b>solution to</b> the problem.
contact	relationship/contact + <i>with</i>	She has a good <b>relationship with</b> the students.*
other	cause/cost/example + <i>of</i> opinion/knowledge/hope + <i>of</i> advantage/disadvantage + <i>of</i>	The <b>cause of</b> the flooding was heavy rain. Britain's main <b>hope of</b> success ... lies with ... He's got the <b>advantage of</b> speaking Chinese.
	matter/trouble/problem + <i>with</i> belief/trust/confidence + <i>in</i>	What's the <b>matter with</b> you today? People don't have <b>confidence in</b> the government any more.

\* We use *relationship + between* before two people/groups/things:  
*The relationship between Alex and his brother has always been difficult.*  
*I don't understand the relationship between global warming and wetter summers.*

For preposition + noun, e.g. *at home*, *on time*, *for sale* ➤ Unit 18