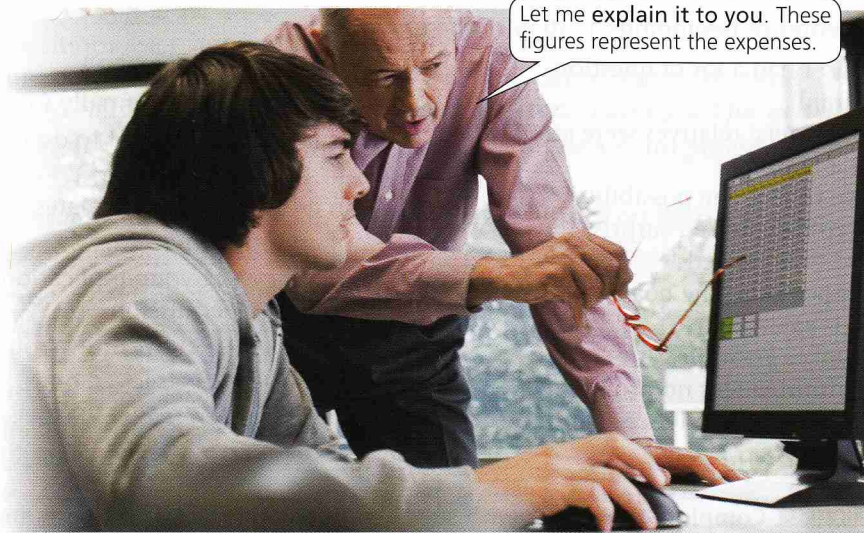


66 Dependent prepositions (2)



1 Preposition or *to* + infinitive

Many adjectives describing feelings and emotions can be followed by a preposition or *to* + infinitive:

We were **annoyed at finding** our places taken. He's **keen on learning** archery.

We were **annoyed to find** our places taken. He's **keen to learn** archery.

Some verbs can also be followed by a preposition or *to* + infinitive, but there may be a change of meaning:

They don't **agree with** the government's policy. (= They have a different opinion.)

I **agreed to help** him fill out the forms. (= I said that I was willing to ...)

More on verbs + infinitive ► Units 45 and 46.3/4

2 Preposition or *that* clause

Many of the words which describe or report what we say, think or feel are followed by a preposition + *-ing* form. Some of these words can also be followed by a *that* clause:

The judge **insisted on** the jury **disregarding** the doctor's testimony.

The judge **insisted that** the jury **disregarded** the doctor's testimony.

! We can't put a *that* clause after a preposition, except with expressions such as *the fact that* or *the idea that*:

✗ My parents **disapproved of that** my brother left school at sixteen.

✓ My parents **disapproved of the fact that** my brother left school at sixteen.

Reporting verbs ► Unit 50 Subjects with *-ing* forms ► Unit 65.1

3 Verb + object + preposition

After certain verbs, e.g. *accuse*, *prevent*, we use object + preposition + *-ing* form to link the verb with the person it affects and the action it refers to:

The police **accused** her **of** stealing.

verb	object	preposition	+ -ing form
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His sense of duty **prevented** him **from** leaving.

These verbs can be made passive:

She **was accused** of stealing (by the police).

He **was prevented** from leaving (by his sense of duty).