

- *by* or *with* to introduce an instrument, i.e. what we use to do something:
Negotiations were held **by** phone between the client and his solicitor.
The victim was killed **by** a bullet to the head/**with** a sawn-off shotgun.
- *by* for the agent (or creator) of something: *It's one of the later paintings **by** Van Gogh.*

4 Comparison

We use

- *against*, *beside* and *contrary to* to make a contrast:
Look at this year's sales figures **against** last year's; they're so much better.
Beside her sister, Laura was positively plain.
The Davis Cup final was won by the Croatian team, **contrary to** expectations.
- *between* to differentiate: *I can't tell the difference **between** butter and this spread.*
- *like* to make a comparison: *She behaves **like** a director, but she's really only a secretary.*
- *as* to express a role: *Speaking **as** a director of the company, I believe we should sell the shares.*

5 Inclusion and exception

We usually use *among* or *between* to show that something is part of a pair/group.

Among usually refers to more than two:

*For women, the distinction **between work and leisure** is less clear-cut.*

*Princes William and Harry were **among** the spectators at yesterday's match.*

When we talk about one thing in addition to others, we can use *besides*:

*Are there any issues remaining **besides** that of the roof repairs?*

To say that something is not within certain limits, we can use *beyond*, *outside* or *out of*:

*I'm afraid that changes to the curriculum are **beyond/outside/out of** our control.*

We can use *apart from*, *but for* and *except (for)* to say that something is excluded:

*Everyone is invited to the conference dinner, **except (for)/apart from/but for** those who have bought 'day' tickets only.*

- *Except* and *except for* can both be used after phrases containing determiners such as *all*, *every*, *no*: *Julian did very well in all his exams **except (for)** geography.*
- To contradict the main idea of the sentence, we only use *except for*:
*Glock emerged from the wreckage of the car **uninjured except for** a minor leg injury.*
- We can also use *but for* to mean 'if not for' (► Unit 38.3).

6 Material

We use

- *of* when the original material is still visible: *a dress (**made**) of Thai silk*
- *of* in metaphorical phrases: *a man **of** iron, a heart **of** gold*
- *from* when the original material has been transformed: *ice cream **made from** strawberries*
- *with* when we refer to a filling or an ingredient: *vine leaves stuffed **with** rice*

7 Other

We use

- *on behalf of* to express 'representing' someone or something:
***On behalf of** our shareholders, I'd like to thank all of you who voted in favour of the merger.*
- *for the sake of* when we do something in order to benefit someone/something else:
*I think we should move to the country **for the sake of** the children.*
- *according to* to report opinions or feelings:
*The peak skiing period will be 24–25 February, **according to** Chamonix tourist office.*

⚠ We do not use *according to* to report our own opinions and feelings:

✗ *Holograms aren't a real art form, ~~according to me.~~*

✓ ***According to many art critics**, holograms aren't a real art form.*

Prepositions of concession (e.g. *despite*) ► Unit 60.3