

prepositions

prepositions of place

She sat **in** the square and watched the tourists. (2 20))
 There's a box **under** your bed.
 You'll find some cash **inside** my purse.
 The cups are **on** that shelf there.
 There's a man standing **in front of** the gate.

- Prepositions that describe place, like *in* and *on*, have an independent meaning. They can be used with different verbs and places and the meaning doesn't change.

prepositions of movement

They flew **over** the city. (2 21))
 He ran **across** the road.
 He walked **through** the door.
 Go **along** the street, **past** the supermarket.
 Don't run **down** the steps. You'll fall.

- Prepositions that describe movement, like *over* and *through*, have an independent meaning. They can be used with different verbs of movement and the meaning doesn't change.

dependent prepositions after verbs and adjectives

- We **waited for** the film to start. (2 22))
 They all **laughed at** me.
- I'm **worried about** my camera – the flash isn't working.
 She's **interested in** astrology.
- He's **good at spending** other people's money.
 She **believes in taking** lots of pictures and then **choosing** the best.

- Some verbs are always followed by the same preposition.
- Some adjectives are always followed by the same preposition.
- If there is a verb after the preposition, we use the *-ing* form, not the infinitive.



The verbs *ask*, *discuss*, *enter*, *marry*, and *tell* have no preposition, e.g.

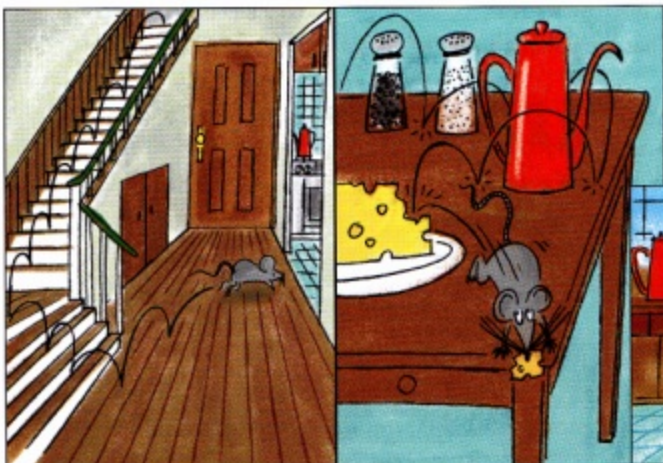
I **asked Jack** for directions. NOT *asked to*
 We **discussed the situation**. NOT *discussed about*
 The police officers **entered the building**. NOT *entered in*
 She **married her personal trainer**. NOT *married with*
 The photographer **told everyone** to smile. NOT *told to*

- For a list of prepositions after verbs and adjectives see p.164.

a Complete the story with the correct prepositions.

across onto under into down off towards
 next to round on between in along

The mouse ran **down** the stairs, ¹ _____ the corridor, and ² _____ the kitchen. It jumped ³ _____ the table, and ran ⁴ _____ the salt and pepper and ⁵ _____ the coffee pot. There was some cheese ⁶ _____ a plate. The mouse stole a piece, jumped ⁷ _____ the table, and disappeared ⁸ _____ the door. Then it ran ⁹ _____ the garden and stopped ¹⁰ _____ the gate. But unfortunately two cats were hiding ¹¹ _____ the grass, and they started to creep ¹² _____ the mouse...



b Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

She paid **for** my flight home.

- I'm tired _____ all this work – I'm ready _____ a holiday!
- I'm not looking forward _____ apologizing _____ what happened.
- He's very proud _____ his new camera.
- Mum! Josh won't share his sweets _____ me!
- You can't always rely _____ the trains here – they're often late.
- What are you talking _____?
- The pilot told us not to worry _____ the turbulence.
- Who's responsible _____ updating the website?
- There's no point arguing _____ it now – let's wait _____ the boss to get here.
- I'm interested _____ photography, but I'm not very good _____ taking photographs!

