

Prepositions present a great challenge for students because they do not exist in the Chinese language. The good news is that you can improve through practice, practice and more practice. Reading is also a good way to learn.

One good strategy is to learn prepositions with new words (e.g. verbs) when reading books and articles.

Strategies for tackling prepositions exercises.

1. Read the passage like a reading comprehension passage. If you understand it you are far more likely to get the correct answer.
2. Write the first answer that comes into your mind. The more you try to think about it, the higher the chance it will be wrong. **BUT** you must read each sentence fully. If you do not, you may answer incorrectly.
3. Look for clues around the word.
4. If you get one wrong, try to learn it with the verb or adjective, together with the meaning.
5. Memorising general words is useful but the more you read, the more you will improve with prepositions.
- 6. THE KEY TO ACCURACY IS UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT AND GENERAL PRACTICE.**

Instructions:

1. Allow a maximum of 20-30 minutes for each exercise.
2. Use a timer. <http://www.online-stopwatch.com/> is useful.
3. Check the answers against the answer key.

Exercise 6

Complete the following text using the correct prepositions.

Fable: The Lion and the Mouse

A lion, faint _____ heat and weary after hunting, was lying down to take his nap _____ the spreading boughs of a thick shady oak. He fell _____ deep sleep.

It happened that while he slept, a company of scrambling mice ran _____ his back, and woke him; upon which, alerted _____ movement, he clapped his paw _____ one of them, and was about to put it to death. Rembling _____ the prospect of being crushed by the strong lion, the little mouse implored him to have mercy on him _____ a very moving manner. He appealed _____ the lion by asking a noble stain his noble character with the blood of such a despicable and small beast.

The Lion, considering the matter, thought it proper to do _____ he was requested, and immediately release his little trembling prisoner _____ his paw.

Not long after _____ while traversing the forest _____ pursuit of his prey, he chanced to run _____ some hunters and stepped on a trap. Unable to escape he began to roar _____ the top of his voice, knowing that he was doomed _____ a long and painful death.

The mouse, hearing a voice, and knowing it to be the lion's, immediately ran to the place, and bid him fear nothing, for he would be set free. Then the mouse set _____ work and with his sharp little teeth gnawing, bit _____ the wires of the trap and set the lion free. The lion was very grateful to the mouse for coming _____ his rescue.

Moral of the story: One day you may be _____ need of assistance and a good act such as having mercy _____ another will be repaid.

Exercise 6 - answers

Complete the blanks with the correct prepositions.

Fable: The Lion and the Mouse

A lion, faint **from/with** heat and weary after hunting, was lying down to take his nap **under** the spreading boughs of a thick shady oak. He fell **into** a deep sleep.

It happened that while he slept, a company of scrambling mice ran **over/down/across** his back, and woke him; upon which, alerted **by** movement, he clapped his paw **on** one of them, and was about to put it to death. Trembling **with/at** the prospect of being crushed by the strong lion, the little mouse implored him to have mercy on him **in** a very moving manner. He appeared **to** the lion by asking him not to stain his noble character with the blood of such a despicable and small beast.

The Lion, considering the matter though not proper to do **as** he was requested, and immediately released his trembling prisoner **from** his paw.

Not long after, while traversing the forest **in** pursuit of his prey, he chanced to run **into** some hunters and stepped on a trap. Unable to escape he began to roar **at** the top of his voice, knowing that he was doomed **to** a long and painful death.

The mouse, hearing a voice, and knowing it to be the lion's, immediately ran to the place, and bid him fear nothing, for he would be set free. Then the mouse set **to** work and with his sharp little teeth gnawing, bit **through** the wires of the trap and set the lion free. The lion was very grateful to the mouse for coming **to** his rescue.

Moral of the story: One day you may be **in** need of assistance and a good act such as having mercy **on** another will be repaid.