

Common word combinations

It is not always easy to know which preposition to use after a particular noun, verb or adjective. Here are some of the most common combinations.

Accuse somebody of something

She accused me of breaking the flower-vase.

Afraid of

I am afraid of the dark.

Agree with a person, opinion or policy

I couldn't agree with him.

Fatty foods don't agree with me.

He left the firm because he couldn't agree with their marketing policy.

Agree about a subject of discussion

We agree about most things.

Agree on a matter for decision.

We still haven't agreed on a date.

Agree to a suggestion

I will agree to your suggestion if you lower the price.

Angry with / at a person for doing something

Common word combinations

She was angry with / at me for using her car without her permission.

Angry about something / angry at something

What are you so angry about?

Anxious about (= worried about)

I am getting anxious about your safety.

Anxious for (= eager to have)

We are anxious for an end to this misunderstanding.

Anxious to (= eager, wanting)

She is anxious to leave. (= She is eager to leave.)

Apologize to somebody for something

We must apologize to him.

I must apologize for interrupting you.

Arrive at / in

What time does the plane arrive at New York?

When did you arrive in Canada?

Divide into

Common word combinations

He divided the cake into eight parts.

Dream of (= think of, imagine)

He always dreams of becoming a famous writer.

Dressed in

She came dressed in white.

Drive into

Susie drove into a tree again yesterday.

Enter into an agreement, a discussion etc.

We have just entered into an agreement with them.

Enter is used without a preposition when it means 'enter a place'.

The conversation stopped as we entered the temple.

Explain something to somebody

Could you please explain this to me?

Fight with / struggle with / quarrel with / argue with

Their children are very badly brought up - they are constantly fighting with each other.