

Using except

The word *except* means 'not including'. It can be used as a preposition or a conjunction. When used as a preposition, *except* is followed by a noun.

I haven't invited anybody *except* Peter. (= Peter is the only person I have invited.)
Here the noun Peter acts as the object of the preposition *except*.

Except can also be used as a conjunction. As a conjunction, *except* is followed by a clause or an adverbial phrase.

I would like to bail him out, *except* I don't have any money.
Except can also be used before a conjunction like *that*, *when* or *if*.

She knows nothing about him *except* that he is young and handsome. (= She knows nothing about him apart from the fact that he is young and handsome.)

He looks handsome *except* when he sleeps.

Except for

That was a good report *except for* a few spelling and grammatical mistakes.
Both *except* and *except for* can be used after words like *all*, *every*, *no*, *anybody*, *nowhere*, *whole* etc. In other cases, we use *except for*.

She ate everything on her plate *except for* the pickles. OR She ate everything on her plate *except* the pickles. (= She didn't eat the pickles, but she ate everything else.)
Both *except* and *except for* are possible after *everything*.

I haven't told anybody *except / except for* Mary. (Both *except* and *except for* are possible after *anybody*.)
Except for Mary, I haven't invited anybody. (NOT *Except* Mary, I haven't invited anybody.)