

Words with appropriate prepositions

Some verbs, adjectives and nouns are followed by particular prepositions. Here are some of the most common combinations. Note that alternatives are sometimes possible, and that British and American usage sometimes differ.

Absorbed in

He is completely absorbed in his research work.

Abstain from

You must abstain from smoking and drinking.

Acceptable to

That suggestion is not acceptable to us.

Acquainted with

I am only slightly acquainted with him.

Acquitted of

James was acquitted of the charge of theft.

Adapt to

One must learn to adapt oneself to changing circumstances.

Addicted to

James is addicted to gambling.

Admit to

He was admitted to the Medical College.

Admit of

This is an urgent matter which admits of no delay.

Allotted to

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I have performed the task allotted to me.

Amazed at

I was amazed at her performance.

Anxious to

She is anxious to hear from her son.

Avail ... of

Avail yourself of this opportunity.

Aware of

I am not aware of their plans.

Backward in

She is rather backward in her studies.

Believe in

Do you believe in ghosts?

Boast of

She boasts of her aristocratic upbringing.

Brood over

Don't brood over past failures.

Call at (=visit)

On the way we called at a friend's house.

Call for (= demand)

The principal has called for an explanation from the suspended students.

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Care for

I don't care for your objections. I have decided to do it.