

108 Other prepositions

Prepositions can be used to express relationships other than place and time, such as origin, ownership, and absence.

See also:

The passive **24** Verb patterns with prepositions **54** Prepositions **105**

108.1 "BY"

"By" has several common uses in English.

When used to talk about an action, it refers to something that is done to achieve a certain result.

RESULT ACTION
I fixed my television **by** hitting it.



It is used to say who wrote or made something.

I'm reading *1984* **by** George Orwell.



It is used to talk about methods of travel.

I always go to work **by** train.



"On foot" is an exception to this rule.

It can be used to form the passive voice.

This was painted **by** a famous artist.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

I broke my phone **by** dropping it in a puddle.



It's too far to walk into town.
It's much easier to go **by** bus.



This show is based on a short story **by** Jane Austen.



That new building was designed **by** a famous architect.



108.2 "WITH" AND "WITHOUT"

"With" has several common uses in English.

It can mean "accompanied by."

I went to a restaurant **with** my wife.



It is used to talk about possession.

I want a job **with** a good salary.



It is used to talk about the thing used to perform an action.

I cut this apple **with** a knife.



"Without" is used to talk about the absence of something.

Vera came to the party **without** a gift.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

I need to move somewhere **with** better phone reception.



I need to hire someone **with** excellent computer skills.



Christina paid for the dress **with** her credit card.



Wait! Don't leave **without** me!



108.3 "ABOUT"

"About" is mainly used to mean "on the subject of."

I'm watching a documentary **about** Ancient Greece.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

I'm going to call the bank **about** their bad service.



I'm sorry, but I have no idea what you're talking **about**.

