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.





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.



"WITH" AND "WITHOUT" 108.2

"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.

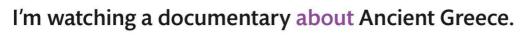


Wait! Don't leave without me!



"ABOUT" 108.3

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





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.

