

SOME COMMON ERRORS IN ENGLISH PART 14

USE OF WRONG PREPOSITION

1. Popular with, not among.

Don't say: John is popular among his friends.

/Say: John's popular with his friends.

2. Prefer to, not from.

Don't say: I prefer a blue pen from a red one.

Say: I prefer a blue pen to a red one.

Note: Also **preferable to**: This car is preferable to my old one.

3. Preside at or over, not in.

Don't say: Who presided in the last meeting?

Say: Who presided at (or over) the last meeting?

4. Proud of, not for.

Don't say: He's very proud for his promotion.

Say: He's very proud of his promotion.

Note: We say **take(a) pride in** : A craftsman takes a pride in his work.

5. Rejoice at or in, not for.

Don't say: We rejoiced for her success.

Say: We rejoiced at (or in) her success.

6. Related to, not with.

Don't say: Are you related with Simon in any way?

Say: Are you related to Simon in any way?

Note: Also **relation to**: Is he any relation to you?

7. Repent of, not from.

Don't say: He repented from his crime.

Say: He repented of his crime.

Note: **Repentance** takes **for**: He feels repentance for his sin.

8. Satisfied with, not from.

Don't say: Are you satisfied from your marks?

Say: Are you satisfied with your marks?

Note: Also content with, delighted with, unhappy with, happy with, displeased with, dissatisfied with, disgusted with.

9. Similar to, not with.

Don't say: Your house is similar with mine.

Say: Your house is similar to mine.

10. Sit at a desk etc., not on a desk etc.

Don't say: The bank manager was sitting on his desk.

Say: The bank manager was sitting at his desk.

Note: Also sit at a table. But on a chair, on a bench, on a sofa, etc. in an arm-chair, in a tree or up a tree. A bird sometimes perches (= sits) on a tree.

11. Spend on, not for.

Don't say: I spend a lot of time for my computer.

Say: I spend a lot of time on my computer.

12. Succeed in, not at.

Don't say: I hope he'll succeed at his work.

Say: I hope he'll succeed in his work.

Note: A person succeeds to a property, a title, or an office: Queen Elizabeth II succeeded to the throne in 1952. Also one person can succeed another.

13. Superior to, not from or than.

Don't say: This is superior from (or than) that.

Say: This is superior to that.

Note: Also inferior to, junior to, senior to, subsequent to, prior to.

14. Sure of, not for.

Don't say: I'm quite sure for her honesty.

Say: I'm quite sure of her honesty.

Note: Also **certain of**: I am quite certain of it.

15. Surprised at or by, not for.

Don't say: Harold was surprised for the loud bang.

Say: Harold was surprised at/by the loud bang.

Note: Also astonished at/by, amazed at/by, alarmed at/by, puzzled at/by, shocked at/by

16. Suspect of, not for.

Don't say: I suspect Kate for stealing the pen.

Say: I suspect Kate of stealing the pen.

Note: Also **suspicious of**: Dogs are suspicious of strangers.

17. Take by, not from.

Don't say: Robert took his brother from the hand.

Say: Robert took his brother by the hand.

Note: Also: hold by, catch by, seize by, snatch by, grasp by.

18. Tie to, not OK .

Don't say: The girl tied the string on the kite.

Say: The girl tied the string to the kite.

Note: Also **bind to**: The prisoner was bound to the stakes.

19. Tired of, not from.

Don't say: The boys are tired from eating boiled eggs.

Say: The boys are tired of eating boiled eggs.

20. Translate into, not to.

Don't say; Translate this passage to English.

Say: Translate this passage into English.

21. Tremble with cold, etc., not from cold. etc.

Don't say: The man was trembling from cold.

Say: The man was trembling with cold.

Note: Also **shake with** and **shiver with**: The thief was shaking with fear.

22. Warn (a person) of danger, not about danger.

Don't say: They were warned about the danger.

Say: They were warned of the danger.

Note 1 : Use **warn about** for specific things: They warned us about the bumps in the road.

Note 2 : We warn a person against a fault: His teacher warned him against breaking the rules.

23. Write in ink, not with ink.

Don't say: I've written the letter with ink.

Say: I've written the letter in ink.

Note: We use **in** when we are referring to the final work: The drawing was done in charcoal.

Dora writes her letters in green ink.

When we are referring to the instrument used we use **with** :

The children are learning to write with pen. Helen prefers to paint with a thin brush.