



LEGAL ENGLISH CENTRE

Prepositions in Legal Use & More

Networks of Meaning

Sample Download

the TOLES Higher Level

© 2014 Agnieszka Chojecka

First edition

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for their initial feedback on the glossary compilation.

For additional information contact:

Legal English Centre,
Agnieszka Chojecka
ul. Dąbrowskiego 20/22a/5
60-839 Poznań, Poland
tel: 48 600 600 550
www.legalenglish.net.pl

INTRODUCTION

Aims

This glossary has the following aims:

- to help learners memorise prepositions more effectively
- to increase students' language accuracy and mastery
- to provide a quick revision before the TOLES examinations
- to encourage students to build up their own glossaries.

The glossary is not meant as an exact dictionary-like source of reference. Although it presents **over 650 phrases**, it is not an exhaustive list of prepositional phrases required at this level.

The primary idea behind this compilation is to:

- find common areas of meaning among the phrases students may already know
- categorise phrases by networks of meaning for ease of reference
- put into practice the modern findings of how information is stored and memorised best.

Who can benefit

- students at the upper-intermediate, FCE or higher levels of English (CEF B2-C1)
- candidates for the TOLES Higher examination
- students who wish to revise prepositions in a systematic and meaningful way.

Types of phrases

This glossary includes the following types of phrases:

- prepositional phrases used after and before nouns, after adjectives and verbs
- phrasal verbs (multiword verbs)
- adverbial phrases
- prepositional phrases in idioms and metaphors
- fixed phrases (collocations)
- prepositions used in **legal, business and general English** contexts.

The main focus of this glossary is on putting words into broad categories and meaningful lexical groups, and not on adopting a strictly grammar-based approach.

Therefore, words from different word classes may be found grouped together according to similarities of structure, image, context and so on.

Why business and general English contexts? If you already know some prepositions which form a network of meaning, it is easier for the brain to add new items to such a network. The more associations and links between the phrases, the faster it is to memorise and recall new ones.

Why prepositions matter

The correct use of prepositional phrases is vital for a few reasons.

- Prepositions may change the meaning of the phrase.
e.g. a claim **for** compensation BUT a legal claim **to** land
- If used correctly, they make you sound natural and professional in English.
- They increase precision of your language. e.g. within 7 days v in 7 days

Grammar brief

There are a few basic grammar terms used in this booklet.

How to recognise word classes:



Phrasal verbs – a quick reminder

These are combinations of a verb plus a preposition or two prepositions, where the meaning of a phrasal verb is not the same as the independent parts of the phrase.

Phrasal verbs may be:

- intransitive – where they do not take a direct object
the car broke down
- transitive – where they require a direct object and can form a passive voice
draw up the contract or *draw the contract up*
the contract was drawn up
BUT *draw it up* – if the object is a pronoun, it usually separates the phrasal verb
- transitive / inseparable – where they require a direct object but it can't go between the verb and the preposition: *look after the children*

Organisation

- The prepositions are presented alphabetically.
- Within each preposition there are categories of closely or loosely related phrases because of their meaning or a common idea.
- The categories have been created according to **purely subjective criteria**.
- The examples of sentences follow, which serve a further illustration of the grammar of the phrase. They also provide a meaningful context for effective learning.
- Examples for the most basic phrases like "on Monday" have been omitted.
- Polish translations are used only in a few instances where it is crucial to get the correct meaning.

How to use this glossary

It depends on your personal approach.

- Read through the categories
- Look for any common thread of meaning
- Study the examples to see the phrases in action
- Imagine the context in which YOU can use the phrase
- Add your own comments or phrases
- Mark or underline anything YOU consider important or useful

Symbols used in the glossary

= shows the meaning for clarification

≠ opposite

AmE / BrE where the distinctions between these varieties are important

(law) = if a phrase is particularly common in legal use or has a strictly legal meaning

sth = something

sm = someone

BUT shows that something may be tricky in a given phrase, or because prepositions change depending on the part of speech

/ = shows that different prepositions are possible, but frequently the choice may depend on the part of speech in use

(fml) = formal register

(infml / colloquial) = informal register

-ing = shows that you need to put a gerund after a phrase, e.g. going, visiting

(n) = nouns

(v) = verbs

From the author

As a teacher of English I have been designing and conducting legal English courses for over ten years. My students have often complained how difficult it is to learn random phrases by heart. This compilation is my effort to help students memorise and use prepositional phrases correctly, be it in business or legal English contexts.

I hope that by uncovering similarities or common patterns in the troublesome area of memorising vocabulary, this glossary will make the task more manageable and attainable.

Enjoy a read.

Agnieszka Chojecka

BEHIND

1. be late in -ing sth

- **behind schedule** ≠ on schedule (AmE be off schedule)
- **fall behind with payments**

Our team is starting to slip **behind schedule**.
You really can't afford to **fall behind with** mortgage payments.

BEYOND

1. later than a particular time, amount, level, limit

- **(to) extend beyond 2016**
- **work beyond retirement age**
- **(to) rise beyond the 15% level**
- **far beyond the reach of sm** ≠ within the reach
- **beyond the jurisdiction of** ≠ within the jurisdiction of the court
also outside the jurisdiction

Is it possible to extend this work permit **beyond 2016**?
Are you allowed to work **beyond the retirement age**?
The problems will definitely start if the compound interest rises **beyond the 1.5% level**.
This action is far **beyond the reach of** the tax authorities.
This legal matter falls **outside the jurisdiction of** common courts.

2. sth is impossible to do

- **beyond control** ≠ under control

Due to circumstances **beyond our control**, we are unable to send a replacement product.

FORWARD

1. closer to a place, person, position

- **bring sth forward** = move it to an earlier date
- **put forward a proposal** = present, submit
- **look forward to sth / -ing**

They had to **bring** the meeting **forward** to an earlier date.
 You can certainly **put forward** your innovative solution at the meeting.
I look forward to meeting you in person.

FROM

1. to indicate origin

- **arise from**
BUT (law) any disputes arising out of or in connection with this agreement or arising out of or relate to / in relation to
- » **out of** = directly connected with the agreement
- » **in connection with / in relation to** = a wider scope of disputes covered
- **come from**
- **originate from**

Can we discuss the matters **arising from** the last meeting at a different time?
 Where do most of your seasonal workers **come from**?
 This piece of antique jewellery probably **originated from** Egypt.

2. a change in the state from sth to sth

- **change from ... to**
- **move from**
- **transfer from**
- **translate from**

Over the years the firm **changed from** a family-owned enterprise into a joint-stock company. Several experienced managers were **moved from** the parent company to various subsidiaries. I'd like to **transfer** this sum **from** my savings account **into** the current account. Can she **translate** this leaflet **from** Italian to Chinese?

○ **implied from conduct**

Certain obligations may be generally **implied from** the parties' conduct.

3. talk about difference, when comparing things

- **different from, to differ from**
- **distinct from, to distinguish from**

Your two senior managers seem strikingly **different from** each other.
Judicial power should be perceived as essentially **distinct from** legislative power.
I cannot accurately **distinguish** one product **from** another.

4. to say what is prevented or forbidden, you decide not to do

- **abstain from, abstention from**
- **be banned from**
BUT a ban on sth
- **be barred from raising an action** = (law) you can't take sth to court
- **hide from**
- **prevent from**
BUT prevention of

Junior staff must **abstain from** harshly criticising the board for any decision.
The motion was passed by 20 votes to 3 with 5 **abstentions from** voting.
Jerry has been **banned from** holding a managerial position for a year.
BUT They imposed a total **ban on** smoking on the business premises.
You are **barred from** raising an action because your claim is subject to limitation period.
She was **withdrawing** small sums **from** the cash machine and trying to **conceal** it **from** me.
The camera has been installed in the hall to **deter** people **from** stealing petty items.
There is no point in trying to **hide** evidence **from** the police unless you want to be fined for obstruction to justice.
The employees who went on strike were **prevented from** entering the factory floor.

4. affecting, relating to sth, often ON = UPON

- **to impose a ban on** = put
- **a limit on / to**
BUT to limit sth (no preposition)
- **a restriction on**
BUT to restrict sth/ sm (no preposition)
- **a burden on**
BUT to burden sm (no preposition)
- **a fine on**
BUT to fine sm
- **a tax on / to tax sm on sth**
- **have influence on**
BUT to influence sth (no preposition)
- **have impact on**
- **have effect on**
- **put stress on**
BUT to stress sth
- **monopoly on / in**
- **to focus on**
- **to concentrate on**

- **secure a loan on the property**
- **be binding on sm**
BUT be bound by

The government imposed a blanket **ban on** the sale of ivory.
 Didn't you know about **a limit on** the number of tickets you can buy?
 There's a safety **limit to** what we can do to help.
 The law imposed new accounting **restrictions on** limited liability companies.
 It is definitely **a burden on** the company's activities.
 They should impose heavier **finer on** drivers who habitually park illegally.
 He already pays 30% **tax on** his income.
 The shareholders are **taxed on** the amount of dividend received.
 You can have no **influence on** local politics if you do not vote in the elections.
 Have they assessed the ultimate **impact on** climate change?
 The performance brought about a powerful **effect on** the younger audience.
 They continuously put special **stress on** the need for discipline.
 Do they have a total **monopoly on** the provision of legal services in the area?
 Try to **focus on** a bigger picture and ignore his larger-than-life personality.
 The researcher tried hard to **concentrate on** the demanding task.
 The bank may typically require to **secure** the loan **on** the property.
 The provisions of the contract are **binding on** both parties.