

Extension exercises

Chapter 7: Prepositions | Comments

Exploring English

The extent to which prepositions may be pronounced clearly depends on the speaker. It also varies considerably according to whether or not the words contribute new or unexpected information. Often, prepositions are barely distinguishable, and it is only knowledge of context, grammar and what words usually occur together which enables the hearer to 'supply' the words in transcribing speech.

Researching how people use English

This exercise is intended to help you become more aware of:

- the range of attitudes that exist about what is and isn't acceptable usage.
- any very individual point of view about prepositions you may hold yourself.

Answers to this question will depend on the people's attitudes to 'correctness' and variation or innovation in language use. You may find that people have strong views on this subject – and also quite idiosyncratic ones. People often assume that their own views are generally held, when this is not the case.

Course materials

Responses to this question will depend on the materials you choose.

- 1, 2** In the early stages of learning, prepositions of place and location are often introduced in describing rooms (often in conjunction with *there is/are*) and asking for and giving directions (for example, *on the left/right, opposite*). *At, in* and *on* are usually introduced in the context of times and dates, and *for* and *since* tend to be taught with the present perfect.
Often some of the more abstract prepositions (for example, *of, for, with*) are slipped in without explanation. And often the only explicit attention which is paid to many dependent prepositions is in tests and revision exercises at advanced levels.
- 3** Recent course materials generally focus more on vocabulary, and draw attention to which words can combine with which words. More attention may be paid to dependent prepositions.