

Academic Writing prepositions and determiners pairwork guessing game

Instructions

Choose one of the sections on your worksheet and read out phrases from there one by one with the word in bold missing (saying “blank”, “beep”, “lalala” etc for that part and “dot dot dot” if the sentence has “...”). Continue reading out phrases from one section until your partner guesses the word which is missing from all those phrases. They can only guess once per hint, but you can repeat the previous clues if they ask you to. If they still can't guess after you have used all of the hints in one section, make up your own ideas for example phrases with the same word missing. If you don't use all of the examples in one section, you can go back to the same section later if you want to.

Useful language for playing the game

“That's not correct. I'll give you another hint”

“I'm not sure. Can you give me another hint?”

“Can you repeat that hint?”

“Can you repeat the other hints?”

Ask about any sentences which you don't understand, think could take different words, etc, then swap worksheets and do the same guessing game.

Determiners and prepositions grammar presentation

After you finish the game, find words on the worksheets below that match these definitions. The same word can sometimes go in more than one place below. Not all of the words are used.

Prepositions

- = the opposite of “to”
- = used with days and dates
- = a point in time or space
- = somewhere within a place or time
- = used after passive (after “is made” etc)
- = the difference (“increased ___ 35%” etc)
- = the opposite of “against”
- = used after an amount to talk about a specific group of people, things etc (like “a few ___ them” and “a number ___ us”)
- = used to compare two things
- = used before the infinitive of a verb (“be” etc)

Articles/ Determiners

- = one (of the available things)
- = one unique thing
- = a thing mentioned before
- = used before an amount (like “few”, “couple” and “lot”)
- = used before “this”, “next” and “last”, and similar phrases like “today”, “tomorrow” and “yesterday”

Suggested answers

Prepositions

from = the opposite of “to”

on = used with days and dates

at = a point in time or space

in = somewhere within a place or time

by = used after passive (after “is made” etc)

by = the difference (“increased ___ 35%” etc)

for = the opposite of “against”

of = used after an amount to talk about a specific group of people, things etc (like “a few ___ them” and “a number ___ us”)

than = used to compare two things

to = used before the infinitive of a verb (“be” etc)

Articles/ Determiners

a/ an = one (of the available things).

the = one unique thing

the = a thing mentioned before

a/ an = used before an amount (like “few”, “couple” and “lot”)

- = used before “this”, “next” and “last”, and similar phrases like “today”, “tomorrow” and “yesterday”

Further practice

After doing the brainstorming task below, test each other on the phrases section by section:

- read out phrases in one section with the words in bold missing (this time meaning with a range of different words missing)
- read out the heading of one section and help your partner make suitable phrases (helping with key words, gapped sentences, etc)

Student A

Hope you had **a** good trip to Singapore. .

I have attached **a** copy of the paper.

I have **a** question about the homework which you set in the lesson on Wednesday.

Have **a** good weekend.

It is **a** common view in many countries that...

There has been **a** lot of controversy about the topic of...

There is **a** widespread belief that...

A potential negative consequence is...

A significantly more important drawback could be...

A striking similarity between the two data sets is...

There is **a** substantial difference between the short and long term future prospects of...

A small minority of people claimed that...

As **a** general rule,...

A good primary source on this topic is...

This provides **a** totally new point of view on...

There is **an** absolutely tiny difference in responses if we look at...

To give **an** example, you could write about scholarships and other awards.

There is **an** assumption among many politicians that...

Any assistance you could give me in this matter would be gratefully accepted.

If you need **any** further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Any feedback you can give me on this would be gratefully accepted.

As requested, here is the second draft of my dissertation with more...

As we discussed, I am sending an outline of...

The two approaches are almost the same **as** each other.

There are many instances of this, such **as**...

As has been shown above,...

The main points above can be summarised **as**...

Having looked **at** both sides of the argument,...

It was a pleasure to finally meet you face to face **at** the symposium.

It was so nice to see you again **at** the IATEFL chapter meeting last month.

This paper will look **at** the plus points and then turn its attention to...

However, opposition parties argue against the government's policy **by** quoting...

The greatest selling point **by** far of involving the private sector is...

This is caused **by** feelings of social isolation.

This factor was the biggest **by** a substantial margin.

I will give three reasons **for** this in the paragraphs below.
As has been shown above, there are arguments both **for** and against...
For all the reasons given above, the conclusion must be that...
The chief benefit **for** participants seems to be...
There are several examples of this in Tokyo. **For** instance,...
The main reason **for** this is that it looks like “padding” your biography.
The main justification **for** this is...
If these results are repeated elsewhere, this could have huge implications **for**...

Turning **from** the positive aspects to the more major negative ones,...
This essay takes most of its data **from** Smith (1973).
I look forward to hearing **from** you.

The text **in** red is my changes since the first draft.
Thanks **in** advance.
In many developing countries...
In modern society,...
I believe that **in** general this approach has a lot of merit.
I will give some examples of situations **in** which this policy should have mainly positive consequences, and then...
I will look at both sides and then give my own view **in** my conclusion.
I will look at the past, present and future, **in** that order.
In the paragraphs below I will look at both sides of the argument **in** turn, then I will...
I believe that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages **in** most cases.
In the future, it will be necessary for NGOs to...
In other words,...
In brief,...
In the overwhelming majority of cases, voters respond to this by...
According to the vast majority of experts **in** the field,...
Greene’s ideas were set out **in** her book How Animals Think.
(as cited **in** Harris, 2001)
In his seminal work, Smith claims that...
I am writing to you **in** order to...

Student B

Although I can understand both points of view, I am quite a strong supporter **of** this idea in the majority of cases.

Practical implications **of** this research include the need for...

Because **of** this, in the future researchers should...

Sorry to write out **of** the blue, but...

One of the main advantages **of** this is...

The biggest benefit **of** this course of action is...

The majority **of** participants reported that...

A considerable body **of** literature exists on the effects of...

A major effect **of** this could be...

Short term consequences **of** this policy could include...

The conclusions should be **of** interest to anyone in the fields of...

Readers **of** this journal...

Moving **onto** the good points of this method,...

The most widely recognised authority **on** this matter is W.H.Brown, who says...

This paper draws primarily **on** the work of Hatton (2008).

Thank you for the class **on** Monday. I really think I am beginning to understand the topic now.

Thanks for your feedback **on** my first draft.

See you **on** Friday.

There are two strongly contrasting points of view **on** the topic of...

In my own opinion, this depends **on** the situation of the country in question.

The research also touches **on** the fields of...

For most countries, there are far more pros **than** cons.

The final figure is a great deal higher **than** earlier data had suggested.

For people growing **up** nowadays,...

To sum **up** the data given above,...

Would you mind sending me a copy of the materials so I can catch **up**?

I agree **with** Smith (1989, 89) when he says that...

I am writing to you in connection **with** your workshop next week.

This paper begins **with** a review of the recent literature on the topic.

Perhaps a majority of young people in the world have to deal **with** the issue of...

Thanks for your help **with** the second draft of my paper.

I am writing to you **with** regards to...

In **the** attached essay I have examined...
I'm sending you **the** final draft of my paper on...
Could you possibly check if I've done **the** right thing?
All **the** best
Over **the** last few decades, rural communities have had to cope with...
The arguments above can be summarised as...
To attempt to paraphrase **the** whole paper,...
Despite all **the** advantages mentioned above,...
Despite the disadvantages given in **the** previous paragraph,...
The most significant selling point is...
The most obvious difference between the two methods is...
The only difference between the two lines is...
Perhaps **the** best example of this is...
The second advantage of changing Chinese trade policy is...
The author of this paper found that...

People reading **this** paper may find that...
This study lays out arguments for...
This paper sets out three reasons for...

There is also a lot of resistance **to** this idea.
The two concepts are practically identical **to** each other.
To put that another way,...
..., that is **to** say...
According **to** Chase's seminal paper on the topic,...
He claimed rather unconvincingly **to** have proved that...
This essay makes extensive reference **to** the works of...
This can lead **to** several consequences.
I will then use the data to come **to** a conclusion on how welcome this might be.
In this essay I will attempt **to** evaluate both sides of the argument.
To summarize the views given above,...
We therefore have no choice but **to** conclude that...

Most – people find that...
Please find – this week's homework attached.
Could you please let me know the homework that was set – yesterday?
In – today's globalised world,...
– These days there are many issues with...
I will discuss – both points of view below.
We therefore recommend that – all governments should...

Brainstorming stage

First of all without looking above, write suitable phrases in each section below.

Academic emails**Opening lines of academic emails****Opening line mentioning the last contact between you****Opening line with the topic of the email****Social opening lines/ Friendly opening lines****Body of academic emails****Sending documents/ Sending attachments****Requests and enquiries****Closing academic emails****Closing lines in academic emails****Closing greeting in emails**

Introductions to academic writing

Explaining the background/ relevance/ importance to the topic/ writing

Giving your opinion

Outlining the structure of the writing

**Finishing academic writing
Summarising (the whole paper)**

Conclusion(s)

Implications of your conclusion(s)

The body of academic writing
Avoiding personal pronouns

Supporting your arguments
Advantages and disadvantages/ Looking at both sides

Comparing/ Contrasting

Explaining further/ Restating/ Rephrasing

Hedging/ Generalising/ Making general statements

Quoting people/ Describing other people's experience and opinions/ Giving sources of information

Giving examples

Logical arguments (reasons, causes, consequences, etc)

Look above for ideas, then brainstorm more.

Suggested answers

Opening lines of academic emails

Opening line mentioning the last contact between you

It was a pleasure to finally meet you face to face **at** the symposium.

It was so nice to see you again **at** the IATEFL chapter meeting last month.

Thank you for the class **on** Monday. I really think I am beginning to understand the topic now.

Thanks for your feedback **on** my first draft.

Thanks for your help **with** the second draft of my paper.

Opening line with the topic of the email

I am writing to you in connection **with** your workshop next week.

Sorry to write out **of** the blue, but...

I am writing to you **with** regards to...

I am writing to you **in** order to...

Social opening lines/ Friendly opening lines

Hope you had **a** good trip to Singapore. .

Body of academic emails

Sending documents/ Sending attachments

As requested, here is the second draft of my dissertation with more...

I have attached **a** copy of the paper.

Please find – last week's homework attached.

The text **in** red is my changes since the first draft.

In the attached essay I have examined...

As we discussed, I am sending an outline of...

I'm sending you **the** final draft of my paper on...

Requests and enquiries

Would you mind sending me a copy of the materials so I can catch **up**?

I have **a** question about the homework which you set in the lesson on Wednesday.

Could you possibly check if I've done **the** right thing?

Could you please let me know the homework for – this week?

Closing academic emails

Closing lines in academic emails

Any assistance you could give me in this matter would be gratefully accepted.

If you need **any** further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing **from** you.

Thanks **in** advance.

See you **on** Friday.

Any feedback you can give me on this would be gratefully accepted.

Have **a** good weekend.

Closing greeting in emails

All **the** best

Introductions to academic writing

Explaining the background/ relevance/ importance to the topic/ writing

For people growing **up** nowadays,...

In many developing countries...

In modern society,...

In – today's globalised world,...

It is **a** common view in many countries that...

Over **the** last few decades, rural communities have had to cope with...

Perhaps a majority of young people in the world have to deal **with** the issue of...

There are two strongly contrasting points of view **on** the topic of...

There has been **a** lot of controversy about the topic of...

There is **a** widespread belief that...

There is **an** assumption among many politicians that...

– These days there are many issues with...

If these results are repeated elsewhere, this could have huge implications **for**...

This provides **a** totally new point of view on...

The conclusions should be **of** interest to anyone in the fields of...

The research also touches **on** the fields of...

Giving your opinion

Although I can understand both points of view, I am quite a strong supporter **of** this idea in the majority of cases.

I believe that **in** general this approach has a lot of merit.

In my own opinion, this depends **on** the situation of the country in question.

Outlining the structure of the writing

I will discuss – both points of view below.

I will give some examples of situations **in** which this policy should have mainly positive consequences, and then...

I will give three reasons **for** this in the paragraphs below.

I will look at both sides and then give my own view **in** my conclusion.

I will look at the past, present and future, **in** that order.

I will then use the data to come **to** a conclusion on how welcome this might be.

In the paragraphs below I will look at both sides of the argument **in** turn, then I will...

In this essay I will attempt **to** evaluate both sides of the argument.

This paper begins **with** a review of the recent literature on the topic.

This paper will look **at** the plus points and then turn its attention to...

Finishing academic writing

Summarising (the whole paper)

As has been shown above, there are arguments both **for** and against...

The arguments above can be summarised as...

To attempt to paraphrase **the** whole paper,...

To sum **up** the data given above,...

To summarize the views given above,...

As has been shown above,...

The main points above can be summarised **as**...

Conclusion(s)

Despite all **the** advantages mentioned above,...

Despite the disadvantages given in **the** previous paragraph,...

For all the reasons given above, the conclusion must be that...

For most countries, there are far more pros **than** cons.

Having looked **at** both sides of the argument,...

I believe that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages **in** most cases.

We therefore have no choice but **to** conclude that...

Implications of your conclusion(s)

Practical implications **of** this research include the need for...

Because **of** this, in the future researchers should...

We therefore recommend that – governments should...

In the future, it will be necessary for NGOs to...

The body of academic writing

Avoiding personal pronouns

Readers **of** this journal...

People reading **this** paper may find that...

The author of this paper found that...

This study lays out arguments for...

This paper sets out three reasons for...

Supporting your arguments

Advantages and disadvantages/ Looking at both sides

A potential negative consequence is...

A significantly more important drawback could be...

However, opposition parties argue against the government's policy **by** quoting...

One of the main advantages **of** this is...

The biggest benefit **of** this course of action is...

The greatest selling point **by** far of involving the private sector is...

The chief benefit **for** participants seems to be...

The most significant selling point is...

There is also a lot of resistance **to** this idea.

Turning **from** the positive aspects to the more major negative ones,...

Moving **onto** the good points of this method,...

The second advantage of changing Chinese trade policy is...

Comparing/ Contrasting

A striking similarity between the two data sets is...

The final figure is a great deal higher **than** earlier data had suggested.

The most obvious difference between the two methods is...

The only difference between the two lines is...

The two approaches are almost the same **as** each other.

The two concepts are practically identical **to** each other.

There is **a** substantial difference between the short and long term future prospects of...

There is **an** absolutely tiny difference in responses if we look at...
This factor was the biggest **by** a substantial margin.

Explaining further/ Restating/ Rephrasing

In other words,...

In brief,...

To put that another way,...

..., that is **to** say...

Hedging/ Generalising/ Making general statements

A small minority of people claimed that...

As **a** general rule,...

In the overwhelming majority of cases, voters respond to this by...

Most – people find that...

The majority **of** participants reported that...

Quoting people/ Describing other people's experience and opinions/ Giving sources of information

A considerable body **of** literature exists on the effects of...

A good primary source on this topic is...

According **to** Chase's seminal paper on the topic,...

According to the vast majority of experts **in** the field,...

Greene's ideas were set out **in** her book How Animals Think.

He claimed rather unconvincingly **to** have proved that...

The most widely recognised authority **on** this matter is W.H.Brown, who says...

This essay makes extensive reference **to** the works of...

This essay takes most of its data **from** Smith (1973).

This work draws primarily **on** the work of Hatton (2008).

I agree **with** Smith (1989, 89) when he says that...

(as cited **in** Harris, 2001)

In his seminal work, Smith claims that...

Giving examples

To give **an** example, you could write about scholarships and other awards.

There are several examples of this in Tokyo. **For** instance,...

There are many instances of this, such **as**...

Perhaps **the** best example of this is...

Logical arguments (reasons, causes, consequences, etc)

A major effect **of** this could be...

Short term consequences **of** this policy could include...

The main justification **for** this is...

The main reason **for** this is that it looks like "padding" your biography.

This can lead **to** several consequences.

This is caused **by** feelings of social isolation.

As **a** result,...