



## Collocations with Prepositions 1

### 1. at last = finally

- After a long journey, at last we arrived at our hotel.
- At last! I thought you'd never get here!

### 2. on foot = walking (NOT ~~by foot~~)

- I usually go to work on foot.
- Did you come by car or on foot?

### 3. by mistake = not meaning to

- I dropped the glass by mistake. I'm really sorry.
- She gave him the wrong book by mistake.

### 4. in advance = beforehand

- We need to book the tickets for the cinema in advance, or we won't get a good seat.
- She always buys her food for Christmas well in advance.

### 5. out of reach = too high to touch (literally or metaphorically)

- She tried to grab the kite as it flew away but it was already out of reach.
- That job is out of reach. I don't have the right qualifications for it.

### 6. for instance = here is an example

- John reads a lot. For instance, yesterday he read two books.
- You should eat more vegetables. Why don't you have a salad at lunchtime, for instance?



7. in danger = in a dangerous situation

- When the car started rolling, we realised that we were in danger. Luckily, we managed to stop.
- The dog fell into the river and was in danger for several minutes.

8. without fail = always / definitely

- She visits her mother every week without fail.
- I study for twenty minutes a day without fail.

9. by chance = without planning

- I saw Julie at the station by chance.
- She found the perfect book by chance in a second-hand bookshop.

10. on purpose = intending to do something

- She left without paying on purpose! It wasn't a mistake.
- Did you take my bag on purpose? Why would you do that?

11. for a change = to do something different

- Let's have Italian food for a change. We always eat British food.
- I don't want to go to the cinema again. I want to go to the park for a change.

12. on time (for) = at the time that was arranged

- She was on time for the meeting. It started at nine and she arrived at nine.
- Why are you never on time? I'm so fed up with waiting for you.

13. to my surprise = I was surprised

- I opened the door, and to my surprise, it was Lucy! I'd thought she was in Paris.
- To his surprise, the baby stopped crying and smiled at him.



14. at once = immediately

- You must do it at once! Don't wait even one minute.
- She cleaned up at once when she realised that her mother was coming to visit.

15. in common (with) = something that's shared or the same

- People from different countries have a lot in common. We all want to have good lives.
- What does a cat have in common with a mouse? Well, they are both mammals.