

6 Worksheet on Grammar: Prepositions

Text: "The Empire State Building", from: Peter Freese, *New York*, Viewfinder Topics (München: Langenscheidt, 2011), pp. 25 ff.

A STUDYING PREPOSITIONS

Most learners of English find prepositions difficult, as a 1:1 translation is often not possible. A preposition in German might have several translations in English - depending on the words surrounding it.

The best way to learn prepositions is to learn them with the new words you learn (e.g. to discriminate *against* s.b., to dedicate s.th. *to* s.b. etc.). Another possibility of learning them is to look them up in a dictionary, and to read English texts (e.g. mark them, make a list and learn them by heart). The following material, published by Langenscheidt, is very useful, too:

Langenscheidt Englische Präpositionen - Bedeutung und richtiger Gebrauch

"Ideal zum systematischen Nachschlagen und Einüben des korrekten Gebrauchs der englischen Präpositionen. Rund 1.000 anschauliche Beispielsätze mit deutscher Übersetzung zeigen deren Anwendungsmöglichkeiten auf."

Langenscheidt Grammatiktraining Englisch

„Gezieltes Trainieren von Englischkenntnissen - mit Übungen zu allen wichtigen und kniffligen Themen der englischen Grammatik. Geeignet für Anfänger und Fortgeschrittene.

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B TASKS

1) Fill in the correct prepositions. Check the answers with the help of the text in your book (ll. 1 to 27).

When the Eiffel Tower (984 feet) was built ____ 1889 ____ Paris it, in a way, taunted American architects to build something taller. ____ the early twentieth century, a skyscraper race was on. ____ 1909 the Metropolitan Life Tower rose 700 feet (50 stories), quickly followed ____ the Woolworth Building ____ 1913 ____ 792 feet (57 stories), and soon surpassed ____ the Bank ____ Manhattan Building ____ 1929 ____ 927 feet (71 stories).

When John Jakob Raskob (previously a vice president ____ General Motors) decided to join in the skyscraper race, Walter Chrysler (founder ____ the Chrysler Corporation) was constructing a monumental building, the height ____ which he was keeping secret until the building's completion. Not knowing exactly what height he had to beat, Raskob started construction ____ his own building.

____ 1929, Raskob and his partners bought a parcel ____ property ____ 34th Street and Fifth Avenue ____ their new skyscraper. ____ this property sat the glamorous Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Since the property ____ which the hotel was located had become extremely valuable, the owners ____ the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel decided to sell the property and build a new hotel ____ Park Avenue (between 49th and 50th Streets). Raskob was able to purchase the site ____ approximately \$16 million.

2) Translate! Check the answers with the help of the text in your book (ll. 109 – 118).

The steel skeleton was built next, with work beginning _____ [am 17. März 1930]. Two-hundred and ten steel columns made up the vertical frame. Twelve of these ran the entire height _____ [des Gebäudes] (not including the mooring mast). Other sections ranged _____ [zwischen sechs und acht Stockwerke] in length. The steel girders could not be raised more than 30 stories _____ [auf einmal], so several large cranes (derricks) were used to pass the girders _____ [auf die höheren Stockwerke].

3) Circle the correct prepositions. Check the answers with the help of the text in your book (II. 200 – 223).

Making the elevators faster was another solution. The Otis Elevator Company installed 58 passenger elevators and eight service elevators **on/in/at** the Empire State Building. Though these elevators could travel **until/ till/ up to** 1,200 feet **per/pro/a** minute, the building code restricted the speed **to/up/at** only 700 feet per minute based **on/at/by** older models of elevators. The builders took a chance, installed the faster (and more expensive) elevators (running them **at/on/with** the slower speed) and hoped that the building code would soon change. A month **after/behind/ past** the Empire State Building was opened, the building code was changed **at/to/onto** 1,200 feet per minute and the elevators in the Empire State Building were sped up.

The entire Empire State Building was constructed **within/in/ up to** just one year and 45 days - an amazing feat! The Empire State Building came in **on/in/at** time and **under/beneath/below** budget. Because the Great Depression significantly lowered labor costs, the cost of the building was only \$40,948,900 (**below/under/beneath** the \$50 million expected price tag).

The Empire State Building officially opened **at/in/on** May 1, 1931 **to/ with/on** a lot of fanfare. A ribbon was cut, Mayor Jimmy Walker gave a speech, and President Herbert Hoover lit up the tower **with/by/on** a push of a button (symbolically pushed **at/on/in** a specific time in Washington, D.C.).

4) Make your own exercises!

The text "The Empire State Building" is a slightly shortened version of the text available at <http://history1900s.about.com/od/1930s/a/empirestatebldg.htm>. (Please copy and paste this hyperlink into your browser.)

With the help of the online text, you can make your own exercises! Just copy the text into a word document, delete the prepositions and save it. Go back some days later and fill them in again. Check the answers with the help of your text book.

(Daniela Pröls)