

Elementary

Preposition Exercises

1) I'm sorry but that smells terrible because I'm afraid the meat **is off**.

- (a) has gone
- (b) is small
- (c) is bad
- (d) is dead

2) She just left him, said she **was through with him** and disappeared.

- (a) didn't want to see him again
- (b) didn't want to help him
- (c) didn't want to hear him again
- (d) didn't want to please him

3) **I'm on for** tonight if you want to go to the match.

- (a) I'm ready to help
- (b) I'm ready to cook
- (c) I'm ready to speak
- (d) I'm ready to go out

4) He's always interested in elections and is **very much into** politics.

- (a) very concerned about
- (b) very worried about
- (c) very interested in
- (d) very happy about

5) I believe that after all those arguments they agreed their marriage was **over**.

- (a) ended
- (b) finishing
- (c) ending
- (d) terminated

6) **Between you and me**, so don't tell anyone, I'm sure he'll lose the election.

- (a) In truth
- (b) In confidence
- (c) In fact
- (d) In conclusion

7) You won't have to wait too long because another bus **will be along** soon.

- (a) will drive
- (b) will travel
- (c) will arrive
- (d) will turn



8) **By the way** did you manage to see that film last night?

- (a) Conveniently
- (b) Actually
- (c) Clearly
- (d) Incidentally

9) It's quite clear to everyone that she's a socialist **through and through**.

- (a) from start to finish
- (b) from here till then
- (c) from this to that
- (d) from time to time

10) I honestly don't think I can make it tonight as I'm feeling a little **under the weather**.

- (a) cold
- (b) wet
- (c) unwell
- (d) upset

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Intermediate

On the Water

1) As usual he left it to the last moment and as a consequence he **missed the boat**.

- (a) didn't take advantage of the situation
- (b) didn't take advantage of the opportunity
- (c) didn't take advantage of the fare
- (d) didn't take advantage of the date

2) I'm sorry to tell you that **you've burnt your boats** now and so you won't be able to go back.

- (a) your current situation cannot be reversed
- (b) your current situation cannot be repeated
- (c) your current situation cannot be retaken
- (d) your current situation cannot be restyled

3) I told her I understood exactly what she was feeling as we were both after all **in the same boat**.

- (a) in a similar case
- (b) in a similar find
- (c) in a similar take
- (d) in a similar situation



- 4) No matter how smoothly things are running, you can always rely on Charlie to **rock the boat**.
- (a) spoil something
 - (b) spoil anything
 - (c) spoil everything
 - (d) spoil nothing
- 5) We were all a bit worried about the new manager because we heard that she liked to **run a tight ship**.
- (a) be well organized
 - (b) be well disposed
 - (c) be well received
 - (d) be well placed
- 6) Although they were a couple well into their 80's everything in their house was always **shipshape**.
- (a) very old
 - (b) very neat
 - (c) very fresh
 - (d) very clean
- 7) Everybody imagined that there was a big romance between the two of them but it turned out they were merely **ships that pass in the night**.
- (a) strangers meeting quietly
 - (b) strangers meeting softly
 - (c) strangers meeting once
 - (d) strangers meeting nightly
- 8) Sadly it never happened but she was absolutely sure **her ship would come in** one day and she could buy that house in the country.
- (a) she would be famous
 - (b) she would be free
 - (c) she would be happy
 - (d) she would be rich
- 9) In view of his change in fortune he decided to **push the boat out** and hold a big party.
- (a) spend a lot of money
 - (b) spend a lot of time
 - (c) spend a lot of effort
 - (d) spend a lot of energy
- 10) Once you've read the instruction book, you'll probably find it's **plain sailing**.
- (a) accurate
 - (b) active
 - (c) straightforward
 - (d) intelligent



Advanced



Cats, Dogs and Ducks

- 1) You will be in a very difficult situation now that he's **let the cat out of the bag**.
 - (a) told a story
 - (b) let the animal go
 - (c) revealed the truth
 - (d) told a lie

- 2) If I were you, I would not raise the subject again and my best advice is to **let sleeping dogs lie**.
 - (a) leave the dogs alone
 - (b) not touch the dogs
 - (c) not say any more
 - (d) keep away from the dogs

- 3) Remember if you go into that meeting without being prepared with some answers, you will simply be a **sitting duck**.
 - (a) a bird with no wings
 - (b) a ready target
 - (c) a steady aim
 - (d) a sick animal

- 4) I'm afraid he didn't take my advice and they made him look a complete fool because he was unprepared and he ended up a **dead duck**.
 - (a) a person with no feelings
 - (b) a person with no problems
 - (c) a person with no future
 - (d) a person with no ideas

- 5) Mind you as I have said many times before I don't know how he's lasted so long in the job because he's always been **the lame duck** in the team.
 - (a) the lazy person
 - (b) the inefficient person
 - (c) the slow person
 - (d) the wrong person



- 6) The older generation always maintains that in their day things were better and nowadays the country **is going to the dogs**.
- (a) is having a good time
 - (b) is becoming lazy
 - (c) is losing its standards
 - (d) is becoming weaker
- 7) If you're unsure about **which way the cat is going to jump**, I suggest you hang on for a bit longer.
- (a) how much it will cost
 - (b) when your turn comes
 - (c) how you can succeed
 - (d) what will happen next
- 8) There is no need to apologize about your remarks as I can assure you it's **like water off a duck's back** to me.
- (a) of some concern
 - (b) of a little concern
 - (c) of little concern
 - (d) of less concern
- 9) Once more he is **in the doghouse** but I couldn't possibly tell you why.
- (a) out of the way
 - (b) out of favour
 - (c) out of order
 - (d) out of trouble
- 10) As so many people are coming to a party at their house, they're running around preparing food **like scalded cats**.
- (a) in a nervous state
 - (b) in a delighted state
 - (c) in a hurried state
 - (d) in a hilarious state

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