

Adjective + preposition: good at, interested in, afraid of

CEFR B1-B2 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

An adjective and its preposition form a fixed pair. Learn the pair, not the preposition alone: interested in, good at, afraid of, proud of and keen on.

The rule

The adjective and preposition are a pair

- English fixes one preposition to each adjective: interested in, good at, afraid of.
- A different preposition changes the meaning or breaks the phrase.
- Learn the pair together as if it were one word.
- The preposition does not follow the noun that comes before the adjective.

Common pairs with in, at and of

- Interested in: "She is interested in art."
- Good at and bad at: "He is good at maths."
- Afraid of and scared of: "I am afraid of heights."
- Proud of, fond of and tired of: "I am proud of you."

Common pairs with about, with and for

- Excited about and worried about: "We are excited about the trip."
- Angry with a person, angry about a thing: "She is angry with me about the delay."
- Pleased with and satisfied with: "The teacher was pleased with the result."
- Famous for and responsible for: "He is responsible for the booking."

Pairs that surprise learners

- Married to, not married with: "She is married to a teacher."
- Similar to and different from: "This is similar to your idea."
- Keen on and addicted to: "He is keen on cycling."
- Nice to and kind to people: "She is kind to everyone."

Position and word order

- The adjective comes first, then the preposition: "good at sport".
- With a verb, the pattern is adjective, preposition and then -ing: "good at drawing".
- In statements, keep the pair together: "I am afraid of dogs."

- The question form can end with the preposition: "What are you afraid of?"

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. She is interested ___ art.

2. He is good ___ maths.

3. I am afraid ___ heights.

4. We are proud ___ your work.

5. They are excited ___ the holiday.

6. She is angry ___ her brother.

7. The city is famous ___ its bridges.

8. He is responsible ___ the tickets.

9. She is married ___ a doctor.

10. This painting is similar ___ that one.

11. He is keen ___ cycling.

12. She is kind ___ animals.

13. I am tired ___ waiting for the bus.

14. The teacher was pleased ___ our results.

15. She is worried ___ the exam.

16. He is addicted ___ his phone.

17. This is different ___ what I expected.

18. Are you afraid ___ dogs?

19. She is very good ___ drawing.

20. We were surprised ___ the news.

Answer key

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1. **in** — Interested is a fixed pair with the preposition in.
2. **at** — Good at describes a skill or a school subject.
3. **of** — Afraid always takes the preposition of.
4. **of** — Proud takes of before the reason for pride.
5. **about** — Excited about takes the event that causes the feeling.
6. **with** — Angry with takes the person, while angry about takes a situation.
7. **for** — Famous for takes the reason for the fame.
8. **for** — Responsible for takes the duty or the task.
9. **to** — Married is followed by the preposition to, not with.
10. **to** — Similar takes the preposition to before the comparison.
11. **on** — Keen on takes the activity you enjoy.
12. **to** — Kind to takes the person or animal that receives the kindness.
13. **of** — Tired of takes the thing that has gone on too long.
14. **with** — Pleased with takes the thing that caused the satisfaction.
15. **about** — Worried about takes the event that causes the worry.
16. **to** — Addicted takes the preposition to.
17. **from** — Different from compares two things and takes the preposition from.
18. **of** — Afraid keeps the preposition of even in a question.
19. **at** — Good at takes the skill, and a following verb takes -ing.
20. **by** — Surprised by takes the event that caused the surprise.