

EBay executives say they'll rely on overseas consumers - particularly the Chinese - to sustain rapid growth rates. Forbes website

55.2 Complete each sentence with one of these verbs: agree, apologize, hear and one of these prepositions: about, from, for, to, with.

- 1 I need to apologize to Jackie for what I said to her in the bar last night.
- 2 I must hear from you in principle, but I'm not sure about the details.
- 3 I agree with your price, on condition that you accept our quality standards.
- 4 We discuss about the reorganization plans?
- 5 Thank you for your email, and I hope to hear from you soon.
- 6 Have you agreed to the reorganization plans?

**A Introduction**

Here is a list of verbs and the prepositions that normally follow them.

apply for	decide on	listen to
ask for	depend on	pay for
believe in	focus on	rely on
belong to	happen to	specialize in
benefit from	hope for	suffer from
compete against	insist on	sympathize with
consist of	know about	take care of
co-operate with	lead to	wait for

- In *wh*- questions the preposition usually goes at the end.
- What job are you applying for? (NOT For what job are you applying?)  
 What does it depend on? (NOT On what does it depend?)  
 Who are you waiting for? (NOT For who are you waiting?)

**B Verb + different prepositions**

Some verbs are followed by one preposition for a thing, and another for a person.

agree to (thing)	complain about (thing)	talk about (thing)
agree with (person)	complain to (person)	talk to (person)
apologize for (thing)	hear about (thing)	write about (thing)
apologize to (person)	hear from (person)	write to (person)

They agreed to a discount of 3%. / They agreed with me.  
 I apologize for my poor handwriting. / I got very angry - I must apologize to her.  
 Have you heard about the merger? / Have you heard from Frankie recently?

**C Verb + object + preposition**

Some verbs are followed by an object (thing or person) before the preposition.

ask person for	insure thing against	spend thing on
blame person for	invest thing in	split thing into
borrow thing from	invite person to	supply person with
congratulate person on	protect person from	thank person for
divide thing into	provide person with	translate thing into

**D Verb + no preposition**

- The verbs *call, phone, tell, discuss* are not usually followed by a preposition.
- I called my boss. (NOT called to)  
 We discussed the project. (NOT discussed about)

Structure and layout are very important for e-mail messages because reading from a screen is more difficult than reading from paper.  
 mail Replies website

**A Introduction**

Here is a list of adjectives and the prepositions that can follow them:

accustomed to	fed up with	relevant to
afraid of	full of	rich in
attached to	guilty of	right about
aware of	important for	safe from
bored with	interested in	satisfied with
certain about	involved in	serious about
compatible with	late for	similar to
covered in	married to	suitable for
dependent on	opposed to	surprised at/by
different from/to	pleased with	suspicious of
disappointed by/about	popular with	typical of
doubtful about	prepared for	used to (= accustomed to)
enthusiastic about	proud of	useful for
famous for	ready for	worried about
fascinated by	related to	wrong about

56.2 Complete each sentence with an adjective: attached, aware, rich, safe, suitable and a preposition: for, from, of, in, to.

- This fund is suitable for investors prepared to accept a high level of risk.
- Russia is very rich in this letter.
- There is a copy of the contract attached to hackers and viruses.
- The firewall should make your network safe from the difficulties he's creating.
- I don't think he's aware of natural resources.

- For behaviour towards another person we use adjective + to. Examples include: good to, kind to, nice to, polite to, rude to.  
 It's a golden rule: never be rude to your customers.
- When a preposition is followed by a verb, the -ing form must be used.  
 Are you serious about outsourcing our back-office functions to India?

**B Adjective + choice of preposition**

Some adjectives are followed by one preposition for a thing, and another for a person.

angry about (thing)	good/bad at (doing something)	sorry about (thing)
angry with (person)	good/bad for (thing)	sorry for (doing something)
annoyed about (thing)	responsible for (thing)	(feel) sorry for (person)
annoyed with (person)	responsible to (person)	

I'm annoyed about the strike – it's really going to disrupt our production.  
 I'm annoyed with myself for making such a silly mistake.  
 Jack is good at coaching new employees.  
 Low interest rates are good for business.  
 I'm responsible for sales and marketing in Spain.  
 I'm responsible to the Marketing Director, Mrs Carvalho.  
 I'm sorry about what happened yesterday.  
 I'm sorry for being late.  
 I feel sorry for David – he lost his job because of a reorganization in the company.