



Mastering Prepositions in IELTS Writing

What's This About?

This grammar pack focuses on prepositions—small but powerful words like 'on', 'about', 'of', 'to', and 'with'. Misusing these can make your writing sound awkward, unnatural, or even grammatically incorrect. Many students at Band 5–6 end clauses with the wrong preposition or use incorrect combinations like 'discuss about' or 'explain to'. This pack helps you gain control over these structures.

IELTS Scoring Impact

Incorrect prepositions reduce your score for Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GRA). They also affect Coherence and Cohesion (CC) when they make ideas unclear or clumsy. To reach Band 7, your use of prepositions needs to be mostly accurate and flexible.

Common Mistakes

- Using 'discuss about the issue' instead of 'discuss the issue'
- Saying 'explain me' instead of 'explain to me'
- Writing 'depend of' instead of 'depend on'
- Ending sentences awkwardly with stray prepositions (e.g., 'this is the topic I talked about it')
- Using the wrong preposition after nouns or adjectives (e.g., 'concerned on' instead of 'concerned about')

Rewrite Rules

1. Learn verb + preposition combinations (e.g., 'depend on', 'argue with').
2. Remove unnecessary prepositions (e.g., not 'discuss about').
3. Use the correct preposition for meaning (e.g., 'interested in', not 'interested on').
4. Avoid double subjects/objects with prepositions.
5. Practice noticing how prepositions change meaning subtly.

Comparison Examples

Incorrect: We discussed about the advantages.

Correct: We discussed the advantages.

Incorrect: This depends of the situation.

Correct: This depends on the situation.

Incorrect: I explained him the process.
Correct: I explained the process to him.

Rewrite Practice

Fix the following sentences by correcting the preposition use:

1. She was concerned on the results.
2. They talked about it and then discussed about the topic.
3. This book belongs at me.
4. He applied on a scholarship program.

Mini Quiz

Choose the correct preposition for each sentence:

1. He is very good ____ solving problems.
a) on
b) at
c) with
2. I'm not familiar ____ this concept.
a) of
b) with
c) about
3. The outcome depends ____ your decision.
a) to
b) of
c) on

Strategy Add-ons

- Build a personal list of tricky verb + preposition and noun + preposition pairs.
- Read more academic essays to see real examples in context.
- Practice changing prepositions to see how meaning shifts (e.g., 'angry with' vs 'angry about').

Paragraph Upgrade

Band 5 Example:

The solution depends of the government. We must talk about it and discuss about the next steps. The citizens are angry on the lack of response.

Band 7 Upgrade:

The solution depends on government intervention. It is important to discuss the next steps clearly. Citizens are angry about the lack of response and demand immediate action.

Get in Touch

Want more help with IELTS grammar and writing? Book a 30-minute session at ieltsjack.com and get personal feedback on your writing.

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