

## Noun patterns

### I. Noun + preposition

### II. Noun + “to infinitive” and noun + “of + -ing “

#### I. Noun + preposition

The four lists below give a selection of nouns followed by prepositions. For more examples and exercises see A Remedial Course in English Grammar: Verbs (Verb + object I-IV, Verb + preposition + object I, II, Verb + object + preposition + object I, II).

**List 1: Unlike the nouns, the related verbs are followed by an object without a preposition.**

Preposition	Noun	Czech equivalent	Verb + object
<b>about</b>	doubt about	pochyba o	doubt something
	debate about	debata o	debate
	discussion about, on, of	diskuze o	discuss
<b>for</b>	demand for	požadavek čeho	demand something
	need for, of	potřeba čeho	need
	proposal for	návrh čeho	propose
	request for	žádost o	request
	requirement for	požadavek na (např. přijetí)	require
	respect for	úcta k, respekt před	respect
	suggestion for	návrh čeho	suggest
	support for	podpora čeho	support
<b>in</b>	decrease in, of	zmenšení, snížení čeho	decrease something
	delay in	zpoždění čeho	delay
	increase in, of	zvětšení, zvýšení čeho	increase
	improvement in, on, to	zlepšení čeho	improve
	reduction in	snížení čeho	reduce
<b>of</b>	avoidance of	vyhýbání se čemu	avoid something
	lack of	nedostatek čeho	lack
	mention of	zmínka o čem	mention
	proof of	důkaz čeho	prove
<b>on</b>	effect on	účinek, vliv na	affect
	emphasis on	důraz na	emphasize
	influence on	vliv na	influence
	stress on	důraz na	stress
<b>to</b>	access to	přístup k	access something
	answer to	odpověď na	answer
	approach to	přístup, metoda; přiblížení k	approach
	damage to	škoda, poškození čeho	damage
	resistance to	odpor, odolnost proti	resist
	solution to	řešení čeho	solve
	threat to	hrozba pro	threaten

**List 2**

<b>Preposition</b>	<b>Noun</b>	<b>Czech equivalent</b>	<b>Verb + preposition + object</b>
<b>for</b>	apology for	omluva za	apologize for something
	compensation for	kompenzace, náhrada za	compensate for
	search for	hledání čeho	search for
	substitute for	náhrada čeho	substitute for
<b>in</b>	participation in	účast na, v	participate in something
	specialization in	specializace v	specialize in
	success in	úspěch v	succeed in
<b>on</b>	agreement on	dohoda o	agree on something
	comment on	komentář, poznámka k	comment on
	concentration on	soustředění na	concentrate on
	dependence on	závislost na	depend on
	focus on	soustředění na	focus on
<b>to</b>	contribution to	příspěvek k, na	contribute to something
	objection to	námítka proti	object to
	reference to	zmínka o, odkaz na	refer to
	reply to	odpověď na	reply to
	response to	odpověď, reakce na	respond to
<b>with</b>	contrast with, to	protiklad, rozdíl	contrast with

**List 3**

<b>Preposition</b>	<b>Noun</b>	<b>Czech equivalent</b>
<b>for</b>	reason for	důvod čeho
	responsibility for	odpovědnost za
	room for	místo pro
<b>on</b>	authority on	autorita, znalec čeho
<b>to</b>	alternative to	alternativa k
	attitude to	postoj k
	exception to	výjimka z
	relevance to	relevance pro

**List 4**

<b>Preposition</b>	<b>Noun</b>	<b>Czech equivalent</b>
<b>to/with; between ..... (and); of ..... with/to</b>	comparison	srovnání s; mezi; čeho s čím
<b>with/to; between ..... (and)</b>	connection	souvislost, spojení s; mezi
<b>to</b>		připojení k
<b>to</b>	contrast	kontrast, protiklad k
<b>in contrast to/with</b>		na rozdíl od
<b>with; between ..... (and); of ..... with; on, in</b>	cooperation, collaboration	spolupráce s; mezi; koho s kým; na, v
<b>with; between ..... (and)</b>	link	souvislost, spojení; vztah s; mezi
<b>to</b>		spojení (např. telef.)
<b>to; with; between ..... (and)</b>	relation	vztah k; vztah, spojitost s; mezi

## II. Noun + “to infinitive” and noun + “of -ing”

Many of these nouns can also be used with **prepositions** and/or **that clauses**. When in doubt, look up the structures in a dictionary. The following lists are by no means exhaustive.

*He put forward **a proposal to improve** the company’s marketing policy.*

*Parliament rejected **the proposal that** the President should be elected directly.*

*We don’t agree with the government’s **proposals for regulation of** the country’s economy.*

### 1. Noun + “to infinitive”

**ability, agreement, capability, decision, effort, failure, inability, invitation, permission, proposal, reason, refusal**

*The discussion resulted in our **agreement to sign** the contract.*

#### Note:

Noun: **ability to**

**inability to**

**capability to/of -ing**

**incapability to/of -ing**

Adjective: **able to**

**unable to**

**capable of -ing**

**incapable of -ing**

The nouns “capability” and “incapability” can be followed both by “to” and “of -ing”.

*Does the company have the **capability to meet/of meeting** market needs?*

But only: *The machine is **capable of performing** three different operations.*

### 2. Noun + “of -ing”

**cost, effect, hope, likelihood, possibility, probability, prospect, risk, sign**

*This lotion has the **effect of making** you look younger.*

### 3. Noun + “to infinitive” or “of -ing”

**chance, method, need, opportunity, way**

*There are several different **ways to tackle/of tackling** the problem.*

#### Note:

The two structures are not always interchangeable. The choice depends to some extent on the context of the sentence (e.g. “need” is followed by “of + -ing” mainly in the phrase “be in need of”, “chance” is followed by “to + infinitive” especially when its meaning is close to “opportunity”).

**chance + to infinitive** (= opportunity)

*I’m sorry, I haven’t had a **chance to look** at your paper.*

**chance + of -ing** (= possibility that something will happen)

*What are the team’s **chances of winning** the game?*

#### Common mistakes:

##### Wrong

*We are trying to find a **way how** to deal with that problem.*

*He is not **capable to** run a company.*

##### Right:

*We are trying to find a way **to deal/of dealing** with that problem.*

*He is not **capable of** running a company.*

## EXERCISES

### I. Complete with prepositions.

1. In this situation any demand ..... higher salaries is unrealistic.
2. Water pollution presents a threat ..... fish.
3. This version of the software is a big improvement ..... its predecessor.
4. There has been a considerable improvement ..... the way some subjects are taught.
5. We carried out all the necessary improvements ..... the information system.
6. He didn't give any proof ..... the existence of life on other planets.
7. He has a degree ..... mechanical engineering ..... specialization ..... machine design.
8. There was no reference ..... previous research in that paper.
9. I don't have access ..... all the files.
10. The minimum requirement ..... the post was a degree in electrical engineering.
11. In his application for the post of lecturer there is no mention ..... previous teaching experience.
12. After a week the search ..... survivors was called off.
13. They achieved considerable success ..... reducing the unemployment rate.
14. Her lack ..... experience doesn't matter; the company can train her for the job.
15. They put forward a proposal ..... a joint research project.
16. We need a new approach ..... teaching mathematics.
17. We all feel the need ..... job satisfaction.
18. What caused the delay ..... making a decision?
19. I have no objection ..... your plans.
20. We can expect a slight decrease/reduction ..... the price of oil.
21. This book is a good introduction ..... computer-aided machine design.
22. That's the answer ..... your question.
23. We received lots of requests ..... more information.
24. We are in need ..... skilled labour.
25. The need ..... skilled labour is growing.
26. The article emphasizes the need to raise the quality ..... and participation ..... scientific research.
27. The fire did a lot of damage ..... the laboratory.
28. Here are some suggestions ..... our further research.
29. This is not a wholly satisfactory solution ..... that problem.
30. In response ..... his supervisor's comments ..... his paper he made some changes ..... the abstract and introduction.
31. There is no substitute ..... practice and experience.
32. Our team welcomes cooperation ..... this international project.
33. Discussion ..... the new Higher Education Act is welcome.

### II. Complete the sentences.

1. They made a **comparison** ..... pollution levels in different cities.
2. In comparison ..... some other games, this one isn't very exciting.

3. There is no comparison ..... Pilsen 20 years ago .....  
Pilsen now.
4. The **connection** ..... air pollution ..... dying forests  
is evident.
5. Your supervisor wants to talk to you in connection ..... your thesis.
6. The socket allows connection ..... a PC.
7. The project envisages the connection ..... the two countries' electricity  
grids.
8. Research has established a **link** ..... smoking ..... cancer.
9. Our country has close business links ..... Germany.
10. He talked about the link ..... new technology .....  
the unemployment problem.
11. This provides a link ..... the last topic I want to cover.
12. Wages are low in **relation** ..... the cost of living.
13. The company has developed relations ..... several universities.
14. In his lecture he tried to formulate the relation ..... science .....  
art.
15. The study was undertaken in **cooperation/collaboration** ..... an  
engineering company.
16. They discussed the lack of effective cooperation/collaboration .....  
higher education ..... industry.
17. Our cooperation ..... Brunel has a long tradition.

**III. Fill the gaps with nouns + prepositions that fit in the context. Use the same noun in both a) and b).**

- 1.a) He wrote the paper in ..... two of his colleagues.  
b) Close ..... faculties is essential for interdisciplinary  
research.
- 2.a) Teachers' salaries are low in ..... to the cost of living.  
b) There is hardly any ..... between these two courses.
- 3.a) There is a ..... air pollution and respiratory diseases.  
b) What he told us today has no ..... what he said  
yesterday.
- 4.a) The ..... life in a big city and a small village is great.  
b) In ..... our previous project, we now have several  
partners from abroad.
- 5.a) A close ..... theory and practice is important in both  
teaching and research.  
b) The University has strong ..... (plural form) .....  
industry.

**IV. Reformulate the following sentences, using the words in capitals. The meaning must remain the same.**

**Example:**

The Dean stressed the need for greater student involvement in Faculty research. LAID  
The Dean laid stress on the need for greater student involvement in Faculty research.

1. A slight rise in temperature does not affect the parameters. HAS

2. I don't doubt your results.	HAVE
3. He emphasized the importance of improving safety standards.	PUT
4. We discussed changes in the Bachelor's degree programme.	WAS
5. Many people believe that human activities considerably influence the climate.	IS

#### V. Translate.

1. V mé kanceláři není místo pro další stůl.
2. Jeho dřívější zkušenost nemá žádný význam (relevanci) pro toto místo.
3. Jaký je váš postoj k modernímu umění?
4. Jsou výjimky z pravidla.
5. Jaké důvody uvedl pro své rozhodnutí?
6. Řešitel projektu má zodpovědnost za projekt.
7. Je znalcem historie elektrotechniky.
8. Neexistuje alternativa k tomuto plánu.

#### VI. Complete the sentences with the "to infinitive"/"of -ing" construction, using the verbs in capitals. Where possible, use both constructions.

1. The **failure** ..... clearly the objectives and the timing of important events was the main reason why their application was rejected. SPECIFY
2. The **probability** ..... the lottery is small. WIN
3. I hope I will have the **opportunity** ..... with your company and look forward to hearing the decision. WORK
4. The application of certain anti-inflation policies has the **effect** ..... economic growth. CURB
5. I think you have a good **chance** ..... the job. GET
6. He welcomed the **chance** ..... extra money. EARN
7. There is more than one **way** ..... the experiment. DO
8. They use a new **method** ..... maths to young children. TEACH
9. There's no **need** ..... HURRY
10. The project is in **need** ..... FUND
11. Reading authentic texts in English requires the **ability** ..... CONCENTRATE
12. Their **decision** ..... last minute changes in the application came as a surprise. MAKE

13. She received an **invitation** ..... at the conference. SPEAK
14. They discussed the company's **capability** .....  
its competitiveness. INCREASE
15. Smoking increases the **risk** ..... lung cancer. DEVELOP
16. There's no **hope** ..... the war. WIN
17. The **possibility** ..... a way out of this situation is  
diminishing. FIND