

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 |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| about | doubt about | pochyba o | doubt something |
| | debate about | debata o | debate |
| | discussion about, on, of | diskuze o | discuss |
| for | 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 |
| in | 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 |
| of | avoidance of | vyhýbání se čemu | avoid something |
| | lack of | nedostatek čeho | lack |
| | mention of | zmínka o čem | mention |
| | proof of | důkaz čeho | prove |
| on | effect on | účinek, vliv na | affect |
| | emphasis on | důraz na | emphasize |
| | influence on | vliv na | influence |
| | stress on | důraz na | stress |
| to | 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

| Preposition | Noun | Czech equivalent | Verb + preposition + object |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| for | 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 |
| in | participation in | účast na, v | participate in something |
| | specialization in | specializace v | specialize in |
| | success in | úspěch v | succeed in |
| on | 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 |
| to | 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 |
| with | contrast with, to | protiklad, rozdíl | contrast with |

List 3

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

List 4

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