

# 14 Verbs and prepositions

## A Verbs with *on* – sentences from academic articles

Chapter 1 of Huang's book **focuses on** violent human behaviour.  
 Sura's article **draws on** data gathered over a period of ten years. [uses in support of his/her case]  
 The introduction to the book **comments briefly on** a case study carried out in Brazil.  
 In this section I **concentrate on** the economic aspects of immigration.  
 The book is **based on** a number of studies carried out during the 1990s. [often used in passive]  
 The method used by Scanlon **relies on / rests on\*** two basic principles. [\* (formal) is based on]

## B Verbs with *to* – teachers talk to students

We **assigned**<sup>1</sup> the tasks randomly **to** the experimental group and the control group to see how the subjects would **react to** the different problems.

Malaria poses a major health risk to people who **are exposed to** infection where malaria is common. In 1997, 13% of deaths among children **were attributed to**<sup>2</sup> malaria in one area in Zaire.

OK, let's **turn to** the more difficult cases that I mentioned earlier. How should a doctor **respond to** a patient who doesn't **consent to** treatment when it seems to be essential?

When you're planning a questionnaire, you should always **attend to**<sup>3</sup> design issues such as the number of questions and how clear they are.

We can't really say that an increase in inflation of two per cent **amounts to**<sup>4</sup> an economic crisis, and I **refer to** some recent stories in the media which are highly exaggerated and which can **be traced to**<sup>5</sup> a deep misunderstanding of how inflation operates.

<sup>1</sup> give a particular job or piece of work to someone   <sup>2</sup> say or think that something is the result of something (often used in passive)   <sup>3</sup> deal with, give one's attention to   <sup>4</sup> be the same as something, or have the same effect as something   <sup>5</sup> discover the origin of something by examining how it has developed (often used in passive)

## C Other prepositions

	verbs	examples
with	associate, provide, couple, equip	Note: In the active voice, as in the first example, this group of verbs follows the pattern verb + object + preposition + complement. Note also that these verbs are often used in the passive, as in the second example. We try to <b>equip</b> our laboratories <b>with</b> the latest technology. Heart disease <b>is</b> often <b>associated with</b> unhealthy life styles.
from	depart, benefit, emerge, exclude	In this book, Herne <b>departs from</b> his earlier theory. [takes a different view] Some of the data <b>were excluded from</b> the final analysis.
of	write, speak, convince, dispose	Abuka <b>writes/speaks of</b> the early years of industrial development. [both are rather formal] We must <b>convince</b> people <b>of</b> the need for water conservation.
for	account, search, call, argue	Lung cancer <b>accounted for</b> 20% of deaths in men. [formed the total of] Hopper (1987) <b>argues for</b> a new approach to English grammar. [opposite: <b>argue against</b> ]



The verbs *emphasise* and *stress* are used without any preposition (NOT *on*). The study **emphasises/stresses** the need for more controlled experiments to back up the conclusions.  
*Divide* is followed by *into* (NOT *divide-in*). The subjects **were divided into** three groups.

## Exercises

### 14.1 Put the words in the right order to make sentences. Use the punctuation to help you.

- 1 period. / focuses / the changes / The article / on / the / the post-war / economy / US / in / in
- 2 commented / student's / inconsistencies / a / The professor / of / in the / essay. / on / number
- 3 conducted / The / is / last / based / a series / theory / of / five / on / years. / over the / experiments
- 4 on / assistants. / The / research / relies / work / conducted by / professor's / experiments / his
- 5 is / are / very / your / your / studies / important / concentrate / to / over. / on / until / It / exams
- 6 was / The / draw / some / to / primary / on / only recently / become / have / available. / writer / sources / which / able

### 14.2 Put these verbs in the right box.

account	argue	assign	associate	attribute	benefit	call	consent	convince
depart	dispose	equip	exclude	provide	react	refer	search	write

  

..... for	..... from	..... of	..... to	..... with

### 14.3 Now choose one of the word + preposition combinations from 14.2 to complete each sentence. Change the form of the verb if necessary.

- 1 The lecturer ..... us ..... a number of very good writers on the subject.
- 2 Traffic accidents ..... most hospital admissions at the weekend.
- 3 The poets John Keats and Lord Byron are closely ..... the English Romantic Movement.
- 4 Remember to ..... carefully ..... all waste material.
- 5 Most people believe that they would ..... enormously ..... having more job security.
- 6 My parents tried to ..... me ..... the advantages of studying abroad.
- 7 I have been ..... an article on this topic for ages.
- 8 Our experiments ..... us ..... the data we needed to prove our hypothesis.
- 9 The head of department ..... the lecturer's request for leave of absence.
- 10 Mary Raskova ..... very movingly ..... her experiences in Rwanda.

### 14.4 Correct the sentences. All of them have errors connected with prepositions.

- 1 The course leader divided her students in five groups.
- 2 They had to trace everyone who had been exposed for the infection.
- 3 At the moment we have too few nurses attending at too many patients.
- 4 Excellent teaching coupled for first-class research have made this a successful college.
- 5 The country emerged off the crisis as a much stronger power.
- 6 Joe got an interest in politics from his uncle who often spoke over his days as a senator.
- 7 The government called to an investigation into the explosion at the nuclear reactor.
- 8 In your speech don't forget to emphasise on the advantages of studying here.