

B7 Academic vocabulary (Unit 3.2)

1 Verbs and prepositions

The following verbs are generally used with these prepositions:

Verb + prep.	Example
add to	The bad weather added to the team's difficulties
agree with	Yu (1997) agrees with Martin and Jenks (1989)
associate with	Monetarism is an economic policy associated with Mrs Thatcher
believe in	The survey showed that 65 per cent believed in life after death
blame for	He blamed unfair questions for his poor exam results
concentrate on (also: focus on)	She dropped all her hobbies to concentrate on her work
consist of	Parliament consists of two Houses: the Commons and the Lords
depend on (also: rely on)	The company depends on IT for a rapid flow of sales data
derive from	Modern computers derive from wartime decoding machines
divide into	Trees are divided into two main types: conifers and deciduous
invest in	Far more money needs to be invested in primary education
learn from	All successful students learn from their mistakes
pay for	Goods delivered in April must be paid for by 30 June 30
point out	Goodson (2001) points out the dangers of generalisation
specialise in	This department specialises in French poetry

2 Practice A

Complete the following with suitable verbs and prepositions.

- The enquiry the cause of the accident, not the consequences.
- Dr Cracknell that there were only two weeks before the deadline.
- Fewer British students are foreign languages.
- The theory of relativity will always be Albert Einstein.
- A football pitch is two halves.
- A series of strikes were the decline in production during May.
- Millions of men died for the cause they

(h) Every city needs a public transport system it can

3 Further examples

With certain verbs more than one preposition is possible (note the change of meaning in some cases).

Verb + preposition	Example
compare to/ with	The stock market has been compared with/ to a casino
look at/ into	The evidence needs to be looked at/ into more carefully
look for	Most students use search engines to look for information
look after	A female mouse looks after her babies for several months
apply to	He applied to the committee for a grant
apply for	To apply for the job three forms must be completed

4 Practice B

Choose suitable verbs and prepositions from (1) and (3) to complete the following text.

In many countries universities (a)..... both state and private institutions. But most universities today (b) funding from the state, and this income (c) new buildings and staff salaries. But fees from both home and overseas students (d) their income, and help them to (e) new facilities. (f) 40 years ago university education has become expensive, due to the much larger numbers of students now (g) a place.